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LXV

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LETTER-BOOKS AND
ORDER-BOOK
OF
GEORGE, LORD RODNEY
ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE SQUADRON
1780-1782

In Two Volumes

VOLUME I
LETTER-BOOKS

JULY 6, 1780-FEBRUARY 4, 1781
DECEMBER 10, 1781-SEPTEMBER 21, 1782

NEW YORK
PRINTED FOR THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1932

Printed in the United States of America by
J. J. LITTLE AND IVES COMPANY, NEW YORK

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FOREWORD

The volumes added to the Collections of The New York Historical Society for the years 1932 and 1933 are the sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth in the John Watts DePeyster Publication Fund Series. They make available to students official correspondence and orders of Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney (first Baron Rodney), while he was commander-in-chief of the British fleet in the West Indies, 1780-1782, and during his visit to New York City in October and November, 1780. The manuscript books containing the letters and orders were purchased by the Society from the Naval History Society Fund, and added to the excellent collection of manuscripts in the Naval History Society Library.

The New York Historical Society appreciates the courtesy of the Secretary of the Public Record Office of Great Britain and the officers in charge of the Literary Search Room, in allowing an examination of the many Rodney papers there, in connection with editing these volumes.

ALEXANDER J. WALL,
Librarian.



INTRODUCTION

In 1780-1782, when Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney was commander-in-chief of His Britannic Majesty's fleet in the West Indies, British, French, Spanish, Dutch, and American ships were at war there. His official letter-books and order-book supply details of that conflict, details of naval administration and discipline and warfare, details of repairs and stores and provisions, of sickness and prisoners-of-war and weather and personalities. Their interest and value are not lessened because the point of view is, naturally, Rodney's, and British.

General accounts of these important two years are included in standard naval histories; a specific study has been made recently by Rear-Admiral W. M. James, C. B., R. N., in *The British Navy in Adversity, A Study of the War of American Independence*, London, 1926. There is no detailed, modern biography of Rodney, although sketches of him are included in most biographical dictionaries. A two-volume life by his son-in-law, General Godfrey Basil Mundy, was printed in 1830; it is uncritical and incomplete, but it does include (though not always exactly transcribed) many of Rodney's letters. A short biography by David Hannay, first published in 1891, was reprinted in 1903, 1910, and 1920, in the "English Men of Action" series. Accounts of Rodney may be found in the older lives of British admirals, such as Ralfe's *Naval Biography of Great Britain*; more recent sketches include one by Admiral A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., in *Types of Naval Officers* (Boston, 1901); John Knox Laughton's article in the *Dictionary of National Biography*; the chapter by Admiral Sir R. Vesey Hamilton, R. N., in *From Howard to Nelson: Twelve Sailors* (edited by John Knox Laughton, London, 1899); and chap-

ters in Francis Russell Hart's *Admirals of the Caribbean* (1922), and Brian Tunstall's *Flights of Naval Genius* (1930).

When Sir George Brydges Rodney, Baronet, was appointed late in 1779 to command the British fleet in the West Indies, he had reached the rank of Admiral of the White Squadron. Since entering the Navy in 1732, at the age of thirteen, he had seen varied service in the English Channel, the North Sea, the Mediterranean, and at Newfoundland; had had a seat in the House of Commons; and had been for five years governor of Greenwich Hospital. He was specifically prepared for the West Indies and familiar with conditions there, from having served as a successful commander-in-chief of the Leeward Islands station during two war years, 1761 to 1763, and at Jamaica during three peaceful, routine years, 1771 to 1774. Sailing towards the West Indies for the third time, Rodney captured a rich Spanish convoy, off the coast of Spain, and defeated a Spanish fleet near Cape St. Vincent, in the darkness of January 16, 1780,—a spectacular victory which enabled him to relieve Gibraltar, and made him a hero in Great Britain. After reaching St. Lucia in March, 1780, he engaged the French fleet in an indecisive battle near Martinique on April 17, 1780, but was not able, before the ending of the campaign, to force another encounter, except for two skirmishes in May. The belief that the French fleet under Guichen was sailing to the coast of North America to aid the American cause, coupled with the hazard of keeping his ships-of-the-line in the West Indies during the hurricane season, influenced Rodney to take his fleet to New York, leaving Commodore Hotham in command at the Leeward Islands.

The first letter-book begins with Rodney's two months in New York, from the middle of September to the middle of November, 1780, during which he conferred and cooperated with Sir Henry Clinton, and antagonized Vice-Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot, who was watching Ternay's squadron at Rhode Island. Upon his return to

the Leeward Islands in December, he undertook an unsuccessful expedition to the island of St. Vincent. At the end of January, 1781, Rodney was informed of the war against the States General of Holland, and in obedience to the Admiralty's recommendation, immediately began swift and secret preparations to attack the Dutch island of St. Eustatius. The letter-book ends with that island's capture on February 3, 1781. The subsequent gap between the two letter-books is partially filled by the *Letters from Sir George Brydges now Lord Rodney to His Majesty's Ministers, &c. &c. relative to the Capture of St. Eustatius and its Dependencies*, which was privately printed about 1783 (and published with additions in 1789) to vindicate Rodney and defend him against the charges of British merchants, whose goods at St. Eustatius had been summarily confiscated, and whose lawsuits arising therefrom worried his final years.

Ill health forced Rodney to leave the West Indies for England on August 1, 1781, so he was absent from North American waters during the campaign preceding Cornwallis's surrender to the American and French forces at Yorktown, in October, 1781.

The second letter-book and the order-book cover the important nine months of 1782, during which Rodney did so much to restore the prestige of the British Navy. The letters and orders of December, 1781, and the first half of January, 1782, show the delays in preparing the fleet, in England, and the bad weather and adverse winds which, for almost a month, prevented its leaving the English Channel. The delay was embittered for Rodney by the news that St. Eustatius had been taken by the French, and he reached Barbados only to learn that the French had taken Demerara also, and that he was too late to save St. Christopher, Nevis, and Montserrat from capitulating. The letters and orders immediately following his return to the West Indies are concerned with Rodney's unsuccessful efforts to intercept a large French convoy before its safe arrival in Fort Royal Harbor, Martinique. These volumes contain little about the

undecisive battle of April 9, 1782, in the lee of Dominica, and few details of Rodney's defeat of De Grasse's fleet on April 12, 1782, near the Saints, between Dominica and Guadeloupe, but there are many letters and orders from St. Lucia for the days of preparation and watching which preceded those battles. The French ships had been transporting soldiers and ordnance for a Franco-Spanish attack on Jamaica, and their defeat saved that island from immediate danger. Rodney assured himself that the remnants of the French fleet had left the Leeward Islands; then following Hood's squadron westward, he joined the ships on the Jamaica station. The letters and orders from April 28 to July 23, 1782, were written at Jamaica, and are concerned with repairing the battle-shattered ships, in reconnoitring the French and Spanish strength at Cape François, in attending to the many French prisoners, and in preparing to safeguard a large convoy home from Jamaica, with the line-of-battle ships captured from the French.

The news of Rodney's victory of April twelfth reached England too late to prevent the appointment and departure of his successor, Admiral Hugh Pigot, but when the victory became known, it won him the thanks of Parliament, elevation to the peerage as Baron Rodney of Stoke-Rodney, and a handsome annuity. Shortly after Pigot's arrival at Jamaica, Rodney left it, on July 23, 1782, and the last few letters and orders trace his return across the Atlantic to Ireland, and striking his flag in Bristol Channel on September 21, 1782. This was the end of Rodney's naval service, and he lived only a decade longer, to defend the lawsuits arising from the St. Eustatius condemnations, and to enjoy the honors of his victory of the Saints. He died at his home in London on May 23, 1792, aged seventy-three years.

The Manuscript Volumes

The two manuscript letter-books and the order-book of Admiral Lord Rodney were purchased in December,

1930, from the Naval History Society Fund, from Charles F. Heartman, of Metuchen, New Jersey, who obtained them from Maggs Brothers, of London. They are preserved in the Naval History Society room at the New York Historical Society's Library.

The letters and orders have been exactly transcribed and printed, clerical errors included, but they have been rearranged in chronological order, for greater ease in reference. Notes written in the margins of the manuscript volumes are printed as footnotes, in the same size type as the text, and whenever those notes are in Rodney's handwriting, the fact is noted in brackets. Editorial footnotes are set in smaller type. The two printed volumes are paged continuously, with an analytical index at the end of the second volume. In the index, a page number in parenthesis indicates that a person or a ship is referred to on that page, but not by name. Figures (1), (2), or (3) following a page reference indicate the number of times an entry is mentioned on that page.

The manuscript letter-book of 1780-1781 is a volume seventeen and three-eighths inches high and eleven inches wide, bound in a mottled, smooth brown calf, with a narrow fancy border along the edges of both covers, tooled and filled in with golf-leaf. The shelf back is smooth and undecorated. On the cover is a red leather label, with a matching gold border around it, and these words, in gold letters: "Admiral Rodney's Letters of Correspondence during his command in the West Indies 1780, 1781, and 1782." There are marbled end-pages. The paper is water-marked with the name "I. Taylor" and an elaborate design above the letters G. R. (This same Taylor stock is used for the end-papers and for the few pages inserted by the binder at the front and back of both our other manuscript volumes.) The letter-book of 1780-1781 contains one hundred and seventy-one written pages, with four blank leaves at the end. It is a clearly and regularly-written clerk's copy of Rodney's correspondence, dating from July 6, 1780, through February 4, 1781.

Our letter-book is evidently a copy of the first half of a manuscript letter-book in bundle 9 of the Rodney Papers, in the Public Record Office of Great Britain (call number G. D. 20/9). The notes which Admiral Lord Rodney himself wrote in the margins of the Public Record Office volume were copied by the clerk into our volume, as he transcribed the letters from the first one hundred and sixty pages. The rest of the Public Record Office volume, pages 161 through 358, contains copies of letters to and from Commodore William Hotham, Rear-Admiral Francis S. Drake, Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, Philip Stephens, Commissioner John Laforey, Aretas Akers, Captain Mark Robinson, and others, from February 4, through April 27, 1781. Many of these letters are printed in *Letters from Sir George Brydges now Lord Rodney to His Majesty's Ministers &c. &c. relative to the Capture of St. Eustatius* (privately printed about 1783; published with additions in London in 1789). Laid in at the end of Public Record Office volume 9 is a small booklet made of a different kind of paper (water-marked "R. Williams") containing a name index of the volume, and copies of seven letters from Rodney, May 1-29, 1781. This volume 9 is uniform in size, brown suede binding, and "Villedary" paper with our other letter-book and order-book, hereinafter described and printed.

The Letter-Book and Order-Book of 1781-1782

Our second manuscript letter-book and the order-book cover the same nine months, from December 10, 1781, through September 21, 1782, with a few earlier orders. The two are uniform in appearance, being sixteen and seven-eighths inches high and eleven and one-quarter inches wide, bound in brown suede. There are six heavily-sewn ridges on the shelf back of each. A narrow scalloped design is tooled along the edges of the covers, inside and out, with a broader band of fancier design making an oblong on each cover, front and back. The

paper in both is water-marked "I Villedary." When they were bound, end-pages water-marked "I Taylor" were added to each volume. The outside "Villedary" pages are browned along the edges, from exposure to light and handling before they received the protection of the present binding.

The manuscript letter-book contains two hundred and sixty-four neatly written pages, inscribed by several different hands, with marginal notes in the autograph of Rodney himself, expressing his opinions in trenchant language. On the cover is written in ink: "Letter Book, 1782"; on the shelf back is written: "Letters Nov^r 1781
Sep^t 82."

In the Public Record Office is a letter-book, number 5 of the Rodney Papers (call number G. D. 20/5), which is identical in contents, in size, and in brown suede binding with this letter-book, except that the end-pages as well as the bulk of the volume are of "Villedary" stock; it contains only one marginal comment by Rodney; and the complimentary closes, written out in our letter-book, are abbreviated in the Public Record Office volume.

Fourteen of the letters found in our letter-book of 1781-1782 and also in the Public Record Office volume 5, were copied again into another volume, in bundle 10 of the Rodney Papers in the Public Record Office. It is a vellum-bound folio marked on the back, in ink: "Lord Rodney's Letters Relative to Jamaica," and contains copies of thirteen letters from Rodney, December 11, 1781, through May 4, 1782, and one to him from Eliph- alet Fitch, dated May 4, 1782.

Our manuscript order-book contains three hundred and six pages of copies of orders, written in different hands, and with no margin comments by Rodney. On the front cover is written in ink: "Order Book for 1782"; and on the shelf-back, in ink: "Nov^r 1781 Sep^t 82." There is no volume among the Rodney manuscripts in the Public Record Office which corresponds to this order-book.

*Rodney Manuscripts, 1780-1782, in the Public
Record Office*

The Rodney manuscripts in the Public Record Office, on Chancery Lane, in London, were presented by Harley Rodney, Esq., in May, 1906, and in June, 1916. The catalogue number of the collection is G. D. 20 (i.e. "Gifts and Deposits"), bundles 1 through 26. The nineteen bundles of the earlier gift are briefly calendared in Charles M. Andrews, *Guide to the Materials for American History to 1783 in the Public Record Office of Great Britain* (Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C., 1914), volume II, pages 348-351. Besides the three letter-books already described in comparing them with our letter-books, there are other manuscripts of 1780-1782 in the Public Record Office collection that supplement these printed volumes.

There is a journal (G. D. 20/3) from December 9, 1781, through September 21, 1782,—the very period of the second letter-book and of the order-book—in which were recorded the bearings of Rodney's flag-ship, the weather, and his more important orders and signals. The entries were carefully inscribed in a large volume, bound in brown suede, and signed at the end: Rodney. In the same bundle (G. D. 20/3) is a paper-covered book containing a rough draft of the latter part of the above journal, from July 24, 1782, through September 21, 1782.

In bundle 6 is a thin volume, covered with marbled paper, with a vellum shelf-back, on the cover of which is written: Admiralty Letters. The paper is water-marked "I Villedary." On the first fifty-eight pages were copied letters of November 23, 1781, through June 1, 1782, from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, their secretary, Philip Stephens, and a few from the Navy Board and the Commissioners for Victualing the Navy.

In bundle 10, besides the vellum volume, mentioned p. xv, relating to Jamaica, there is a small red-leather-

covered note-book containing nineteenth century copies of the following letters:

4 letters from Rodney to George Jackson (later Sir George Duckett), second secretary to the Admiralty, copied from originals in the British Museum, Additional MSS. 9344, dated Gibraltar, January 28, 1780; *Sandwich*, New York, October 12, 1780; *Sandwich*, Sandy Hook, November 12, 1780; and Bath, England, October 19, 1791;

4 letters of Sir Samuel Hood to George Jackson, from British Museum Additional MSS. 9343, dated March and April, 1782, with copies of the correspondence of the same months between Hood and Rodney, of which Hood enclosed copies to Jackson; copies of letters then owned by Sir Thomas Phillips, Bart.: six letters to George Jackson, Oct. 30, 1780 to November 8, 1781; one letter to Lord Sandwich, dated *Sandwich*, Fort Royal Bay, April 26, 1780; and three letters to his son, dated Martinique, April 26, and June 12, 1780; and Barbados, June 2, 1780;

a letter from Rodney to Charles Kerr, of St. John, Antigua, dated April 15, 1782, off Guadeloupe.

Bundle 11 contains some letters from the Admiralty to Rodney, 1779-1781, and to other admirals, 1771-1781.

In G. D. 20/12 are some letters to Rodney from Lord George Germain, 1781; from the Sick and Hurt Board, 1773, 1779-1781; from the Treasury, 1779; from the Commissioners for the Victualing, 1779; from Rodney to the Admiralty, 1774 and 1780; and part of Rodney's correspondence, 1779-1781, with Arbuthnot, Sir Henry Clinton, F. S. Drake, Sir Samuel Hood, Hotham, Hyde Parker, Sir Peter Parker, and Governor Cunningham, of Barbados.

There are about six hundred letters in bundles 13 and 14, folded and docketed, about three-quarters of which are for the years 1780-1782. Many of them are endorsed

“Ent^d” as having been copied into an official letter-book. They include the original letters to Rodney from Commissioner John Laforey; Hon. Anthony Johnson, of St. Christopher; Hon. Thomas Jarvis, of Antigua; Alexander Bowyer, agent for prisoners of war at Antigua; Governor W. M. Burt; Henry Davies, agent victualer at New York; the Marquis de Bouillé; Captain George Day; Captain Francis Pender; Captain Robert Linzee; and others.

Bundle 15 contains miscellaneous papers, 1758-1781, relating to a variety of subjects connected with naval administration in the West Indies in 1780 and 1781: condition of ships, lines of battle, orders, signals, prisoners of war, naval stores, provisions, care of the sick. Related to Rodney's visit to New York in the autumn of 1780 are papers about the hospital on Long Island, and “A List of Prizes taken by the King's Ships and libelled in the court of vice-admiralty” at New York, from September 13, 1780.

In bundle 17 may be found a Commission and War-rant Preferment Book, January 15-August 3, 1782, with the Rev. William Pagett's name written on the cover; thirteen copies of “Private Signals for Armed Ships”; “Signals made and remarks,” May 13-21 [1780]; a folio sheet, imperfect, and undated, listing prizes made by Admiral Rodney's squadron stationed at the Leeward Islands; a roll of arms of seven generations of the Rodney family; a visitors' book, 1781-1784 of Lord Rodney's house in Hertford Street, Mayfair; and a note-book in which were copied the following memorials: Memorial (in reply to a Dutch memorial) in justification of the conduct of Great Britain in the seizure of Foreign Vessels and Warlike Stores designed for the service of the Rebels in America, dated Doctors' Commons, London, March 4, 1778; and a translation from the French by Richard Fahie, St. Eustatius, April 21, 1781, of a memorial, published in the *Utrecht Gazette*, of July 8, 1756, “containing precautions to be observed by Dutch merchants, in conformity to the Marine Ordinance and to

the regulations of France, in order to avoid the confiscation of their vessels, should they be seized and conducted into the Ports of France by French privateers, during the present war."

In the eighteenth package are twenty-six letters and documents, April 21-October 21, 1780, relating to the court martial on Captain Nathaniel Bateman of H. M. S. *Yarmouth*, including the original letters from Bateman to Rodney, lists of the witnesses, members of the court, and Bateman's defense. In this bundle may be found also genealogical notes on the Rodney family; a description, in French, of the fortifications of Dominica, March 8, 1779; a copy of Rear Admiral Barrington's contract with William Thomson and John Seed, merchants of Barbados, concerning providing for hospital accommodations; two copies of the privately printed *Letters . . . relative to the Capture of St. Eustatius*, one with the bookplate of the Right Hon. Thomas Harley; two copies of the printed *Sailing and Fighting Instructions for His Majesty's Fleet* [1780-81]; and two copies of printed *Signals and Instructions in addition to the General printed Sailing and Fighting Instructions*.

Among the Rodney manuscripts added to the Public Record Office collection in 1916 by Harley Rodney, Esq., are official and family letters; household and personal accounts; correspondence and accountings with his business agents, Richard Kee and Paul Maylor, relating to prize-money and personal affairs; letters and accounts of the Compton family, the family of Lord Rodney's first wife, Jane Compton Rodney; genealogical data of the Harley family and letters and wills of the Earls of Oxford. There are also some additional papers relating to naval affairs in the West Indies, 1780-1782.

In bundle 21 are five letters from Lord Stormont, 1779-1782; one sixteen-page holograph letter from Rodney to Robert Udny, dated St. Lucia, March 31, 1782, and a one-page letter to Udny, April 14, 1782, announcing the victory of April twelfth; a packet of original letters of 1782 from Commissioner John Laforey, Rear Ad-

miral Joshua Rowley, and from captains of the fleet and army officers in the West Indies; a packet of letters from Rodney's second wife, Lady Rodney, 1779-1782; letters written at or pertaining to St. Eustatius, 1781, with three lists of vessels in St. Eustatius road, 1781, and two packages of papers, 1787-88, relating to the cases before the Lords Commissioners of Appeals in Prize Cases, growing out of the St. Eustatius capture; several letters from Lord Sandwich, 1771-1782; letters relating to Captain Markham of the *Zebra* and his firing on the French cartel, 1782; letters to Rodney from General Thomas Shirley, of Antigua, 1782; intelligence about the French and Spanish fleets; a journal of the siege of Brimstone Hill, St. Christopher, January 9-February 12, 1782, signed by Shirley; the triplicate copy of a letter, signed by Shirley, dated St. Christopher, February 15, 1782, to Lord George Germain, reporting the capitulation of St. Christopher to the French; letters relating to the surrender of Demerara, 1782, and the siege of Tortola, March, 1782.

Among the miscellaneous letters and accounts in Bundle 22 are found: a large packet relating to St. Eustatius, 1781; letters from Sir Samuel Hood to Rodney, April, 1781, about St. Eustatius, and copies of Hood's letters to Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty, in 1782; original letters to Rodney, dated December, 1781, from Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke, Commissioner Ourry, and captains of the fleet, about preparing Rodney's fleet for its departure to the West Indies; letters to Rodney from Robert Udny, W. P. George, and Sir Charles Douglas; eleven letters from George Jackson (later Sir George Duckett), second secretary of the Admiralty, 1781-82; four letters from Admiral Hugh Pigot, July, 1782; nine letters from Paul Maylor, 1780-81, about business and prize money; correspondence with Rodney's agents for prizes, Colonel William Bayard and Thomas Blane, 1780-82; copies of Rodney's letters to Philip Stephens, May-September, 1781;

letters from Governor Cunningham about Barbados, 1782.

In the small package numbered 23 are vouchers and accounts of rents, taxes, and wages of servants in England; and correspondence with Paul Maylor, 1780-1790. Bundle 24 contains only Harley family papers: leases, letters, 1751-1767, and copies of wills of the Earls and Countesses of Oxford and other members of the family. In bundle 25 are letters and household accounts of the Compton family; two receipt books of Lord Rodney, 1783-85, 1788-90; newspaper accounts of the victory of April 12, 1782, and poems in Rodney's honor; Rodney's own copy of the printed *Letters . . . relative to the Capture of St. Eustatius*; and his accounts with his son, Colonel George Rodney, 1782-1787.

Bundle 26 contains three packets of letters of 1781-82 from Sir Charles Middleton (Lord Barham), the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Shelburne, and Lord Westcote; one package of letters, 1781-82, from Captain Sir Charles Douglas, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Parker, and Captain James Saumarez; nineteen letters from General Sir John Vaughan, 1780-81; four from Colonel Joseph Ferguson, 1780; twenty-nine from Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, January-June, 1782; copies of Hood's signals and orders, January, 1782; four letters from the Comte de Grasse, 1782; copies of Hood's correspondence with De Grasse, in February, 1782; seven letters from Lord George Germain, 1780-81.

In addition to the Rodney papers, the student of the campaigns in the West Indies may find in the Public Record Office a mass of Admiralty records, including letters of admirals and captains, papers of the Navy Board, captains' logs, masters' logs, pay lists, musters, commission and warrant books. These are calendared in the *List of Admiralty Records Preserved in the Public Record Office* (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1904), and in C. M. Andrews' *Guide to the Materials for American History to 1783 in the Public Record Office of Great*

Britain (2 volumes, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1914).

Some Other Manuscript and Printed Sources

For the naval records in the British Museum, the searcher is aided by Andrews and Davenport's *Guide to the Manuscript Materials for the History of the United States to 1783 in the British Museum* (Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1908).

In the United States, the most important sources for related and supplemental material about Rodney are the manuscripts at the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, which include the Vaughan, Shelburne, Germain, and Sir Henry Clinton papers. Dr. Randolph G. Adams, in 1926, briefly described *The Headquarters Papers of the British Army in North America during the War of the American Revolution*, in Bulletin 14 of the William L. Clements Library. The papers of Lord George Germain were calendared as the Stopford-Sackville Manuscripts, by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts in 1884, and more fully in 1904 and 1910; a descriptive account of them, after they had been brought to the United States by Mr. William L. Clements, was published in 1928 by Dr. Randolph G. Adams. The nineteenth bulletin of the Clements Library (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1929) contains Edna Vosper's *Report on the Sir John Vaughan Papers in the William L. Clements Library*, summarizing the importance of the collection in showing the interrelation between the campaigns on the North American continent and in the West Indies, and the relations between army, naval, and civil officers.

Of the source material in print may be mentioned the Publications of the Navy Records Society of London, particularly the *Letters of Lord Hood, 1781-82*; the *Letters and Papers of Charles, Lord Barham; Fighting Instructions, 1530-1816*; and *Signals and Instructions, 1776-1794*. The Bradford Club of New York printed in

1864, *The Operations of the French Fleet under the Count de Grasse in 1781-82 as described in two contemporaneous journals*, being translations of two anonymous French accounts. The Naval History Society of New York has published in its Collections seven volumes relating to naval affairs during the American Revolution. The important period during which Rodney was in England is covered by *The Graves Papers and Other Operations of the Yorktown Campaign, July to October, 1781*, edited with an excellent introduction by the late French Ensor Chadwick, Rear-Admiral, U. S. Navy.

DOROTHY C. BARCK.

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LETTER-BOOK OF
SIR GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY,
(AFTERWARDS FIRST BARON RODNEY)
ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE

JULY 6, 1780 – FEBRUARY 4, 1781

From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Europe, New York July 6th 1780

Sir

Commodore Drake must long ere this have informed you of the diversion the French proposed to make in favour of the Rebellion in this Country, with a Squadron of Twelve Ships of the Line and Ten Thousand Men, under the Command of the Sieur de Rochambault but having altered their Plan, only Seven, with Six or Eight Frigates and Six Thousand Men, are now said to be intended for that Service, and early in May were in readiness to sail from Brest.

I have the Honor to transmit herewith a duplicate of my Dispatch to you by the Kitty Schooner, which I am informed has fallen into the hands of the Enemy, that you may be assured I am and ever have been desirous to promote by every possible and proper means, the good Correspondence, and understanding that should subsist between the Commanding Officers on these Stations.

I send you Copies of the several Letters and Papers which I have received from the Board of Admiralty upon this Subject, that you may desire [*sic*] your Information from the same source as I do mine and act agreeable thereto.

You may be certain that should their Force be directed to your Quarter, being awed by the preparations, which have been made to defeat their designs in this, I shall not delay one moment to send you every possible Aid from this Squadron under Rear Admiral Graves and should the French detach from the West Indies, I must expect the like Service and Attention from you.

The Robust is this day arrived from Hallifax. My Counter Orders having been fortunate enough to reach her in time. I have honor to be Sir &c.

M. ARBUTHNOT

Sir George B. Rodney Bart: &c.

From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

New York, July 8th 1780

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you in addition to the several Dispatches which you will receive by this Conveyance that the Triton is this Evening returned from a Cruize and reports that Nine Sail of French Line of Battle Ships are in the Delaware with Five Frigates and Transports making in the whole about Forty Sail.

I hesitate not a moment in dispatching this Intelligence to you as it is of the last Consequence. I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

M. ARBUTHNOT

Sir Geo^e B. Rodney Bart: &ca.

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹

[Marginal note:] The following Public Letters sent by the *Fortunée* and Duplicates by the Packet.

Sandwich at Sea 12th August 1780

Sir,

Having received undoubted Intelligence that the American Rebels carried on a most pernicious Commerce at the Island of St. Eustatius, which was likewise an Asylum for their Cruizers, from whence they received every Succour and were thereby enabled greatly to annoy the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects; I thought it absolutely necessary to station a Squadron of Frigates in such a manner as I was in hopes would intercept and destroy the Ships and Vessels belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects bound to that Island.

Some of the Frigates employed on that service pursued

¹Printed in Mundy's *Life and Correspondence of the Late Admiral Lord Rodney* (London, 1830), I, 371-374.

Five Sail of His Majesty's Pyratical Rebellious Subjects Arm'd for War, on the 6th Inst^t, they took shelter in the Road of St: Martin's, a small Island part belonging to His Majesty and part to the States General.

The Pyratical Rebels had the Insolence after they were at an Anchor in the Road, to Insult His Majesty's Flag in the grossest manner, by daring to hoist their Rebellious Colours with a Broad Pendant, bringing a Spring upon their Cables and pointing all their Guns into His Majesty's Sloop the Rover.

The Dutch Governor took no notice of this Insult and suffered the Americans to wear their Pyratical Colours.

Notice of this Insult being immediately given me at St: Christophers, where I then was with His Majesty's Fleet, I instantly dispatched Captain Robinson with a Squadron of Frigates and His Majesty's Ship the Intrepid to St: Martins, to seize or Destroy the American Pyratical Vessels, to acquaint the Dutch Governor that every attention and Respect should be paid the Dutch Flag while they Keep within the Rules of Neutrality, but that his suffering so gross an Insult to the British Flag, and his permitting the Americans to wear their Rebellious and Pyratical Colours in his Road, so directly contrary, was a convincing proof to me, that he could not or would not prevent it. I had therefore sent a Squadron of the King my Master's Ships to chastise the Insult.

They seized all the American Vessels, and I have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships that it has had so good an Effect, and has brought the Dutch Governors so much to their senses, that they now pay attention to ancient Treaties, and acknowledge that they know no American Colours, nor suffer any to be hoisted in their Ports in the West Indies.

The Americans taken in these Vessels endeavour'd to prevail upon my Officers to take from the shore Three Hundred Hogshead of Tobacco which they had landed upon the Beach which they declared to be their property and not sold to the Dutch, the answer given was this—

His Majesty's Ships were sent to chastise their Insolence not to seize their Tobacco, nor make War with the Dutch.

I have the Honor to be, &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich at Sea 16th August 1780

Sir

This day I have been favoured with your Dispatches by the Fair Rhodian Brig Lieutenant Quarn who I have dispatched to acquaint you that you may expect every assistance in my power, more I cannot say as this Vessel is liable to be intercepted and therefore must refer you to the Lieutenant to acquaint you with my Determination.

As I have certain Intelligence by a Virginia Schooner, That Admiral Graves was off the Capes of Virginia the 12th July, I hope he has long ere this joined your Squadron.

A Squadron of American Privateers having escaped my Cruizers and put into St. Martin's, they had the Insolence to Insult the British Flag for which affront I ordered them to be severely chastised by a Squadron I sent for that purpose, who took them out of the Road of St. Martin's, the Governor haveing been acquainted that I did not send to molest the Dutch, but to Seize His Majesty's Pyratival and Rebellious Subjects who had dar'd to insult his Flag, and that no Nation should presume to protect them while I had the Honor to Command His Fleet in these Seas.

Letters I have received from the first Authority dated July 8th acquaint me that all was again quiet in England, all mobs had subsided [*sic*] and the Ministers hands greatly Strengthened, the Parliament was prorogued, and such is the change of affairs in favour of Administ[r]a-

tion that should it be thought necessary to call a New Parliament this Summer it will be such a one as will prove very favourable to the present Administration the minds of all people being Open'd and all Associations and Cabals at an End.

I must beg you will be so obliging as to make my best respects acceptable to Sir Henry Clinton, and believe me to be with real truth and sincerity, my Dear Sir
Your most faithful and most Obedient Humble Servant

G: B: RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

To Captain Hugh Robinson

Sandwich at Sea 16th August 1780

Sir

I have been favour'd with your Letter of the 14th June, inclosing a List of the Prizes you took and their Destination.

A few Days since I had a Letter from your Brother who acquaints me that all was again quiet in England, all Mobs was subsided and the Ministers hands greatly strengthened, the Parliament was prorogued and such is the change of Affairs in favour of Administration that should it be thought necessary to call a New Parliament this Summer, it will be such a One as will prove very favourable to the present Administration, the minds of all People being Opened and all Associations and Cabals at an End. I am Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Captⁿ Robinson of His Majesty's Ship Guadaloupe.

From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to John Bullen, Surgeon of the General Navy Hospital, New York

Sandwich Sept^r 9th 1780

Sir

I am directed by the Admiral to inform you that Six Men belonging to the Alcide at the Hospital under your Care has been apprehended in endeavouring to enter on board a Privateer in this port, which they have been enabled to attempt in Consequence of a Ticket giving them by you, whereby they are permitted to come from Long Island to New York.

The Admiral insists that you do not in future grant any such permission, as the desertion of the seamen will be greatly facilitated thereby and the intention of Care defeated, but that the Instant any Man is in any degree fit to be sent on board, you give immediate notice to the ship he belongs to (if here) that he may be taken away if such ship be here, or else to the Flag Ship or any other that they can be most conveniently sent to. I am Sir &ca.

WILL^M PAGETT

Mr. Ballen [*sic* for Bullen]

Surgeon Naval Hospital, New York

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off Sandy Hook 15th Sept^r 1780

Sir

I take the earliest opportunity of informing you of my Arrival off Sandy Hook with Ten Sail of the Line of Battle Ships and that I momentarily expect the Intrepid and three Copper bottom'd Frigates.

My Health is such as to require my going some time on shore, but have detached Commodore Drake with five Sail of the Line to join you immediately, and shall send the remainder as fast as they are fitted. I am conscious

you will employ them in such manner as may be most conducive to His Majesty's Services; An Account of which and any thing I may think necessary to suggest to you may be constantly kept up between us by the Communication of Frigates. I am Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹

Sandwich off Sandy Hook 15th Sept^r 1780

Sir

Since my Letter of the 31st of July from Basse Terre Road St: Christopher's acquainting their Lordships with the Retreat of the French and Spanish Fleets from Martinique and the Caribee Islands without having dared to make any attempt whatever on His Majesty's Territories: as likewise the arrival of Commodore Walsingham with the Ships, Transports, and Trade at St: Lucia with my leaving that Island with the greatest part of the Fleet, ordering every French Island to be reconnoitred, with my Arrival at St. Christophers and dispatching from that Island Rear Adm^l Rowley and Commodore Walsingham with Ten sail of the Line, the Transports with the Troops commanded by General Garth, and the Trade to Jamaica.

I must desire you will please to acquaint them that the appearance of the weather was such that I thought it extremely improper and too dangerous to risque the safety of so important a part of His Majesty's Ships all Copper bottom'd and ready for any Enterprize to remain longer at such a Season of the year in so dangerous a Road as St: Christophers in a Hurricane Month.

I therefore put to Sea without loss of time, and Cruized in such a manner to the Northward of Barbuda, as not

¹Printed, with some variations, in Mundy's *Life*, I, 374-379.

only to put His Majesty's Ships out of the danger of being wreck'd should a Hurricane take place, but likewise to intercept the Enemy's Convoy's having left Frigates with proper Rendezvous to join me with any Intelligence that might arrive either from Jamaica or America both of which I hourly expected.

Having received certain Intelligence by my secret Correspondence of the arrival of Mons^r Guichen at Cape Francois with the French Fleet in very bad Condition, with the departure of the Spanish Squadron extremely Sickly to the Havanah with a certainty of a Convoy of upwards of Three Hundred Sail of Ships being intended to sail from St: Domingo to France under the Protection of the French Fleet. I had not a doubt but part of that Fleet was intended to reinforce the Squadron of Mons^r Ternay whose arrival and taking possession of Rhode Island I had been assured of by the Capture of an American Vessel.

As it plainly appears to me that His Majesty's Territories, Fleet and Army in America were in imminent Danger of being overpower'd by the Superior force of the public Enemy, I thought it a Duty incumbent on me to forego any Emoluments that might have accrued to myself by the Enterprize intended by General Vaughan and myself during the Hurricane Months on the Spanish Main, therefore, without a moments hesitation (knowing Jamaica was in perfect security) I flew with all the dispatch possible to prevent the Enemy's making any Impression upon the Continent before my Arrival there, having left under the Command of Commodore Hotham, a sufficient force to secure His Majesty's Caribbee Islands, and without any person whatever in the West Indies (General Vaughan and Mr. Hotham excepted) having the least surmise I had left that part of the World.

On my Arrival off the Coast of Carolina, I was made happy by the retaken a Ship from Charles Town with the glorious and important News of the Victory obtained by the Earl of Cornwallis a few days before over the Rebel General Gates, with the Destruction of his whole

Army. And having swept the southern Coast of America I anchor'd yesterday off the Hook with the Squadron under my Command a List of which Squadron have the honor to Inclose.¹

It is with the greatest Satisfaction I learn that I am arrived before the Enemy's Squadron which are expected to reinforce Mons^r Ternay, who I am informed has landed all his Troops and is fortifying Rhode Island.

I am likewise informed Vice Admiral Arbuthnot is Cruizing before that Island. I have already dispatched Commodore Drake with four Sail of the Line to reinforce him, acquainting him with with my arrival in these parts, and that I shall hasten the other Ships of my Squadron to Compleat the Blockade of Mons^r Ternay.

The sudden Change of Climate makes it necessary for me to go on Shore for some short time. Tomorrow I propose going up to New York to consult with Sir Henry Clinton and co-operate with him in whatever Enterprize he may think most beneficial to His Majesty's Service, and to propose to him to attack Rhode Island and the French Fleet in that Harbour, if he thinks it practicable. Their Lordships may rest assured that my Illness is not of such a nature as shall Cause one Moments delay to His Majesty and the Public Service.

I have the honor to be &ca.

Philip Stephen Esq^r

G: B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off Staten Island 16th Sept^r 1780

Sir,

I have this moment received the inclosed Intelligence which I immediately forward to you to show the necessity of a Junction between the two Squadrons as soon as possible. I am &ca.

Vice Admiral Arbuthnot &ca.

G: B. RODNEY

¹ The list of vessels was not copied into the Letter-Book.

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Captain
George Gayton*

Sandwich 16th Sept^r 1780

Sir

The inclosed containing Intelligence which the Admiral thinks is of the utmost importance to convey to the Vice Admiral as expeditiously as possible therefore desires you will please immediately to dispatch a Frigate with it to him by the way most likely for him to receive it soonest. I am Sir &ca.

WILL^M PAGETT

Capⁿ Gayton.
Romulus

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich 17th Sept^r 1780

Sir

As I have received repeated Intelligence that the Enemy expects to be speedily join'd by 14 sail of the Line from the West Indies, I must desire you will appear off the Bar of Sandy Hook as expeditiously as possible with the Squadron at present under your Command, by which time I hope the rest of the Ships will be ready to join you. I am Sir &ca.

G: B. RODNEY

P. S. you will be best judge whether the weather will permit you to come off the Bar with safety.

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

*From John Bullen, Surgeon of the General Navy Hospital
at New York, to Captain George Gayton*

Naval Hospital 19th Sept^r 1780

Sir,

Consistent with my Duty I beg you will immediately send me two assistant Surgeons, as I have landed from the different Ships belonging to Sir George Rodney's Fleet upwards of Five Hundred Sick, Therefore must request they may be sent with all expedition. I am Sir &ca.

JN^O BULLEN

Captain Gayton
Romulus

From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Royal Oak in Gardners Island Bay 20th Sept^r 1780

Sir

I have received the Letter you have honour'd me with dated the 15th Instant informing me that you arrived with a Fleet of Ten Sail of the Line, and that one more and three Frigates may be soon expected also. Commodore Drake and his Division anchored here the 18th the only Employment I can at present think of is to lose no time in supplying them with Wood, Water, and permitting them to put their Sick on shore, as the best means to restore their health.

I presume you have been informed that Rear Admiral Graves in the London anchor'd off New York Bar on the 13th July last with the Resolution Commodore Sir Cha^r Ogle, Bedford, Royal Oak, America, Prudent and the Amphitrite Frigate. Three days after M^r Ternay did at Rhode Island with seven sail of the Line and the Fantastique with only her upper Deck Guns since which this Squadron has totally engaged my attention. On the 18th I sailed from New York with all the force under my

Command consisting of Nine sail of the Line and a fifty Gun Ship, and Anchored on the 23rd off Rhode Island, where, and on its environs, I have remained ever since until the 13th Inst^t when not only the advanced season, but the circumstances of the Ships calling on me to return to this Bay.

I have not doubted but that the French will leave this Coast before the Winter. I have therefore always determined if I should be so unfortunate as to have them escape me to dispatch immediately all the Kings Ships late under my Command to the West Indies.

I shall obey any Commands you may furnish me with, but I must observe if your health obliges you Sir to correspond at this distance, it cannot be done by Frigates at this Season.

But whatever method you adopt I shall to the best of my abilities put your Orders in execution.

I have the honor to be with much Esteem Sir &ca.

M. ARBUTHNOT

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Major William Odell

New York 20th September 1780

Sir

Having been honor'd with General Gallings [*sic* for Dalling] Dispatches to his Excellency the Commander in Chief for the purpose of raising a Corps to reinforce the Service going on from Jamaica.

I respectfully beg leave to be permitted to take such Landsmen and Marines now in the Prison Ships as are willing to take the Oath of Allegiance and serve on this Occation.

This Indulgence I flatter myself your Excellency will not conceive improper, more especially so, as the very great number of Naval Prisoners due from the Rebels

on Exchange, can never render those here necessary for that purpose, and all probability any addition to that Debt, may only increase their Power to annoy us. I am Sir &ca.

WM ODETT [*sic* for Odell]

Major L[oya]l A[merica]n Rangers

His Excellency Admiral Sir. G. B. Rodney &ca.

*To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot*¹

Sandwich 21st September 1780

Sir

Whereas I have received undoubted Intelligence that there are several Ships in the River Delaware loaded with Flour and Provisions for the French Fleet and Army at Rhode Island which are daily expected to Sail, I make no doubt but you will make such a Disposition of the Ships with you as shall appear most likely to prevent their getting into that Harbour, should they have the good luck to escape Captⁿ Afflick who with two more Line of Battle Ships and the Galatea, I have ordered to Cruize near the Delaware, so that we shall have a double Chance for them.

In case the Weather proving bad, or they should meet with a Superior Force, I have order'd them to join you off Rhode Island or Gardiner's Bay, and as I hourly expect the Intrepid with three Copper'd bottom'd Frigates from the West Indies, I have ordered Captain Afflick should he fall in with them to employ them in Cruizing along the Coast to the Southward and should they join me without that happening, I intend employing them, the Frigates at least on that service, as I am told the Privateers of the Rebels swarm off Charles Town Bar.

I am Sir your most Obedient and most humble servant

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 382-384.

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich 22nd Sept^r 1780

Sir

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter of the 20th by Captain Graves, acquainting me that Commodore Drake with his Division join'd you on the 18th and the news of Rear Admiral Graves having joined you which had before reached me, and also with an Account of your proceedings with His Majesty's Ships under your Command, which I have not the least doubt have been and will be employed in the manner most conducive to the public service, tho' it will not be at all surprizing if the Enemy should elude the most diligent attention. As they will doubtless avail themselves of the Opportunity to Sail when the Gales of Wind that may be expected at this Season will necessarily render it impossible to keep them closely blocked up.

I apprehend the Reports that have been spread by the Rebels of the French Fleet being on the Coast must have arisen from the Squadron under my Command, having chased some Vessels to the Southward (which escaped) under French Colours.

As I have already wrote you by your Secretary this morning, I have only to add this to the dispatches and to assure you, I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

*From Captain Nathaniel Bateman to Admiral Rodney's
Secretary*

Yarmouth at Staten Island, New York
22nd Sept^r 1780

Sir

I am this moment informed, the Master and Boatswain of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth are order'd to Sea in His

Majesty's Ships, *Triumph* and *Alcide*, both their names were given, in the list of Witnesses I sent you. I am warranted to say, this is done without their Application or wish till my trial is over. I must therefore request you immediately to inform the Admiral that I cannot help considering this measure, as highly unjust to a person under my Circumstances. I am Sir &ca.

NATH^L BATEMAN

William Paget Esq^r

From Captain Howell Lloyd

Fowey at Sandy Hook 23rd Sept^r 1780

Sir,

I beg to inform you that the Guardship station'd here was always supplied with a small Sloop or Schooner for the purpose of Boarding Ships without the Barr, when the weather would not admit of the Ships Boats doing it, and Carrying Express to the Commanding Officer, and Raising Men for the Fleet, the Vessel formerly employed on the above service was froze up last Winter in the Ice, and burnt by the Rebels.

As I think the service cannot be carried on well without such a Vessel, am to request that you will be pleased to give orders to the Officers of the Yard for my being supply'd with one, and I am Sir with respect &ca.

How^L LLOYD

Admiral Rodney

From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Captain Nathaniel Bateman

Sandwich off Staten Island 24th Sept^r 1780

Sir

I have been favour'd with your Letter of the 22nd Instant, desiring me to inform the Admiral that you could

not help considering the Master and Boatswain of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth being ordered to Sea in the Triumph and Alcide which you was warranted to say [was done without their] Application or wish till your trial is over, as a measure highly unfit to a person under your Circumstances.

I immediately communicated it to the Admiral and am by him directed to inform you that he imagined their going out was with their own and your Consent, but at the same time that he cannot Imagine you can conceive that the Officers and Men of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth are not to be employ'd when the necessity of His Majesty's Service requires it, tho' they should be in your list of Witnesses. I am &c.

WILL^M PAGET

Captain Bateman

From Captain Nathaniel Bateman

Yarmouth 24th Sept^r 1780, Staten Island

Sir

It is now upwards of five Months Since I was deprived of the Command of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth, many Opportunities have Occur'd to bring on my trial without any inconvenience or interruption to the King's Service, and several other persons have been tried by Court Martial in the Fleet, some of them committed since my suspension. I have repeatedly and urgently desired nay intreated you to grant me a Speedy Trial, you have frequently promis'd, but always studiously avoided to comply with my request, even when all the Evidences on both Sides were assembled (as pretended) for that purpose. You have lately been pleased to force two of my principal Witnesses, the Master and Boatswain of the Yarmouth into other Ships, order'd to Sea at the very critical time when your own Witnesses were hourly expected to arrive, and in a situation when nothing could prevent a Trial but your Will and Pleasure, or the ab-

sence of the Witnesses! Fortunately for me your Witnesses arrived before mine departed, and both are now on the spot. I am therefore once more constrain'd to make an Application to your Justice, and to request, which I now do, that none of my Witnesses may be sent away before the trial which I also once more claim as my right.

I hope a refusal of these just and reasonable requisitions, will not be added to the many Cruelties, which have been Exercised towards Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble servant

NATH^L BATEMAN

Sir: Geo: B: Rodney Bart:

To Captain Nathaniel Bateman

Sandwich 26th September 1780

Sir

I have received your Letter setting forth the hardships of your situation which notwithstanding what you are pleased to intimate are by no means chargeable on me.

I can only repeat what I have often before said, that the Critical Situation and uncertainty of the fleet under my Command has alone prevented your Trial coming on, which it shall do, as soon as ever His Majesty's Service can possibly admit thereof. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Bateman

*From Henry Davies, Navy Victualer, to Admiral
Rodney's Secretary*

Grand Duke Victualer off Long Island
September 26th 1780

Sir,

As the Admiral probably will for some days be taken up with business too material to grant me Audience, I

am to request the favour of you to signify to him, that large Drafts have been made on me for a Quantity of fresh Beef purchased by order of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot for the use of the Squadron under his Command, and would be glad, you will please to get the Admiral to approve the inclosed Bills on the Commissioners for Victualing to Answer those demands and defray the Contingent Charges attending the department. I have the honor to be with much respect Sir: &ca.

HEN^Y DAVIES

Will^m Padget Esq^r

From Captain Philip Affleck

Triumph Sept^r 26th 1780

Sir,

I did hope by this time that I should have acquainted you that no ill Consequence had attended the unfortunate Accident that happen'd to the Terrible in coming down this Morning, but having an Opportunity to address you by the Intrepid's sailing, I cannot let it pass to wait the Event. The Pilot of the Terrible ran the Ship on the South Point of the Eastern Bank, there is little doubt of her being afloat this tide, but I have thought it my duty to direct Captain Ferguson to send him confin'd to you in the Intrepid; the Blunder appears so glaring that I can scarce give it that name.

I hope to forward by some other conveyance an Account of her perfect safety in a very short time: I have supply'd the Cyclops with some water, but the Intrepids wants are beyond my Abilities, but I hope you will dispatch Captain Molloy to me when ready.

I have the honor to be &ca.

P: AFFLECK

Adm^l Sir G. B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*From Captain Andrew Barkley*Blonde off New York Sept^r 27th 1780

Sir:

I beg leave to inform you that in Company with His Majesty's Ship Raleigh on the 19th Inst: in Latitude $35^{\circ} 50'$ N and Longitude $69^{\circ} 10'$ W^t after a Chase of fifty four hours, we took the Hannibal, Rebel Private ship of War of 24 Guns and One hundred and forty Men, belonging to Newberry Port. She is an entire New Ship being her first Cruize, only out Eight Days from Salem and taken nothing. I am Sir &ca.

AD. BARKLEY

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Captain Philip Affleck

Sandwich 2nd October 1780

Sir

I have order'd the Intrepid and the Raleigh to put themselves under your Command, which ships you will please to order to stand on as far as Cape Henry or so far to the Southward only, should they not join you in time to do that, as to be able to be back at the Hook by the 20th of this month, The Ships already under your Command to be back by the 15th at farthest. I am sir: &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Afflick
Triumph

From William Green, Secretary of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, to the Honorable Hugh Wallace of New York

Gardners Bay 2nd Oct^r 1780

CIRCULAR

Dear Sir

As it is the intention of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot to Claim as Stationary Commander in Chief in North America the share of all Prizes taken by his own Squadron as Commander in Chief accordingly I am directed to require all the Agents for Prizes in New York to reserve in their hands such share and to pay it to none until any other pretences that may be made shall be legally decided on.

In that Line of Employ I take the liberty to acquaint you therewith that you may not be drawn into a dangerous pensibility.

Inclosed is a list of the Kings Ships under the Vice Admirals Command.

I beg you will communicate the foregoing to such of your friends as it may concern.

I have the honor to be with real esteem

Your most Obedient humble servant

WILL: GREEN

Agent for the Vice Adm^l

Hugh Wallace Esq^r

Gardiners Bay 2nd Oct^r 1780

List of His Majesty's Ships under the Command of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot

London	Delaware	Resolution
Royal Oak	Charles Town	Bedford
Russel	Galatea	Prudent
Rainbow	Blond	Raleigh
Romulus	Thames	Amphitrite
Roebuck	Camella	Guadaloupe
Iris	Richmond	Triton

Pearl	Centaur	Otter
Beaumont	Culloden	Swift
Avenger	Bonetta	Halifax
Vulture	Allegiance	Vulcan
Savage	Albany	Kepple
Hope	Royalist [<i>sic</i>]	Argo
Delight	Sandwich	Robust
America	(arm'd ship)	Europe

To Captain Howell Lloyd

Sandwich 3rd October 1780

Sir

I have received your Letter dated yesterday informing me of the appearance of a Fleet of Ships off the Hook and pointing out the utility of a Tender to facilitate the service you are employ'd on, and that you at present have no Orders for your Guidance. I herewith Inclose you Orders for your Proceedings and have Order'd the Sloop Polly immediately to attend on you, which or some other Vessel of the same Kind shall be always under your Command for the purpose of bringing any Intelligence you may think necessary to send me. I am sir &c.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Lloyd
of His Majesty's Ship Fowey

From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Royal Oak in Gardiner's Bay
4th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

Conformable to the orders the Ships of the Squadron are under from me, the accompanying papers contain as

nearly as I can determine their Disposition upon this Station.

The Cruizing Limits for the Ships now with me is between the South End of Nantucker Shoals and Montock point, the Rendezvous is either off Block Island Marthas Vineyard or in this Bay.

I shall put to Sea immediately and keep a Vigilent look out on the movements of the Chavelier de Ternay and his Squadron which is yet at Rhode Island, and ready for Sea.

Conceiving myself to be strong enough to Cope with him, and the Shrewsbury being very Sickly, I have ordered them to rejoin you, her Company has received every possible Refreshment, and they are Wooded and Watered.

I shall send home the Raisonable immediately her state being such as to render her longer stay in America highly dangerous.

I have the honor to be with much Respect Sir

Your most Obedient humble servant

M^T ARBUTHNOT

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart: &ca.

*To Sir Richard Hughes, Commissioner of the Navy at
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Sandwich October 8th 1780

Sir

There being the greatest want of Lumber, Spars for Topmasts, both for Line of Battle Ships and Frigates at the Leeward Islands, it will be of the greatest consequence to His Majesty's Service, if you would supply that deficiency from Halifax, as I am inform[ed] the greatest plenty are to be got there. The Savage Sloop of War will Convoy them to St: Lucia.

If it was possible to send some small houses of one

Storey ready fram'd, it will be of the most essential Service for the preservation of the Sick who are now Oblig'd to lye under Tents at St: Lucia. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Sir Richard Hughes Bart:
Commissioner at Hallifax

*To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot*¹

Sandwich 8th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Since my last which I sent by your Secretary Mr Green I have the honor to acquaint you that I have had several Conferences with Sir Henry Clinton relative to the situation of Public Affairs.

He communicated to me the Correspondence that had passed between himself and you relative to the attacking Rhode Island and the French Fleet.

It was with extreme concern that I learned that the Enemy had availed themselves of every moment in Fortifying it in such a manner as to make an Attack upon it impracticable.

Sir Henry likewise communicated to me his Plan relative to his supporting the Earl of Cornwallis which appeared to me to be of such Consequence that I have given every assistance towards carrying it into Execution, and have the pleasure to acquaint you the Troops are all embarked and ready to proceed on that service.

As the Season is so far advanced I believe there is but little probability of a French Squadron of any considerable Force arriving on this Coast to support Mons^r Ternay, who before the Winter sets in will himself and his Squadron make a push and sail for the West Indies. Should that Event take place and he escape an Engage-

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 384-388.

ment in these Seas, it will be highly necessary he should be followed with all the dispatch possible.

I therefore have the honor to inclose you the Copy of an Order which I have thought it necessary for His Majesty's Service to give Rear Admiral Graves that no time may be lost in the pursuit of Mons^r Ternay, which order I must desire you will please to deliver him.

And whereas it appears to me at this Critical Moment, that your presence as His Majesty's Commissioner and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in America (in the absence of any superior Officer) is highly necessary, that we in Conjunction with Sir Henry Clinton may take such measures as may accelerate the success of His Majesty's Arms and bring his Rebellious Subjects to a sense of their Duty.

I therefore Sir, leave it to your consideration and choice, whether to remain with the Squadron employed in watching the motions of Mons^r Ternay, or return to New York for the reasons I have suggested and leave the Blockade to Rear Admiral Graves.

As I am convinced no Man has His Majesty's Service more at heart than yourself I am sure you will do that which in your Judgment shall appear best and favour me with the Resolution you take.

As I am totally a Stranger to the Navigation in the Neighbourhood of Rhode Island, I must leave it to you, whether (now the Equinoctial Gales are past and the Moon increasing) the Squadron under your Command should not put to Sea and Cruize (if it can be done without imminent danger) off Rhode Island it appearing to me it will be more in the way of intercepting Succours intended for the Enemy, of being joined (should there be occasion) by the Squadron now Cruizing off the Delaware, or of intercepting Mons^r Ternay should he attempt to put to Sea.

Should you return to join me at New York you will please to come in whatever Ship may be most agreeable to yourself and bring with you Commodore Sir Chal^r Ogle in the Resolution leaving what Ships you may

think necessary under the Command of Rear Admiral Graves and Commodore Drake to watch the motions of the Enemy's Squadron at Rhode Island, giving Orders to Rear Admiral Graves not to lose one Moments time in the pursuit of Mons^r Ternay should he leave that Port, in that case he is to proceed agreeable to the inclosed Secret Orders, which are not to be Open'd till such an Event takes place.

Should you chuse to remain with the Squadron, you will please to order Commodore Sir Chal^r Ogle in the Resolution to join me in this Port.

I consulted Sir Henry Clinton relative to a Correspondence being kept between the Squadron and New York, by Post on Long Island. His Answer was—'tis too dangerous.

I hope I shall very soon have the Honor of hearing from you, and am with great Regard. Sir, &ca.

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca. G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off New York 8th Oct^r 1780

Sir

The Savage Sloop Captain Graves being in want of Repair, I should be glad if you could spare her, that you will please to order her to Halifax, And there being the greatest want of Topmasts, Spars and Lumber at the Leeward Islands which I am informed can be easily supplied from Nova Scotia, I could wish you would order a Supply from thence to sail under the Convoy of Captain Graves, who I should be glad to promote when proper Opportunities offer.

As in all probability the great scene of War will again take place on my Station, you must be sensible how necessary a large supply of Masts must be.

I have the honor to be &ca.

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca. G: B. RODNEY

*To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot*Sandwich off New York 8th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

In consequence of the very gallant Behaviour of Lieutenant Steel of the Keppel Brig in an Engagement with the Saratoga Privateer and conceiving that bestowing preferment for particular Acts of bravery must tend greatly to the public Utility, I have appointed him Master and Commander in her, instead of his Commanding her as Lieutenant and have left the vacancy occasioned thereby for a Lieutenant for you to fill up in the Hussar Galley, having appointed Mr. Thomas Sparke Lieutenant of her to the Keppel.

I am Sir With great Regard &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹Sandwich off New York 10th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

Since my Letter of the 15th of Sept^r acquainting their Lordships with my arrival off Sandy Hook and with my Intentions of waiting upon Sir Henry Clinton, to consult and co-operate with him in every measure that he might think necessary for His Majesty's Service more particularly upon the attack of Rhode Island and the French Fleet, if such an Attack was thought practicable.

And having received Intelligence that the Rebel Army under Washington, which had greatly increased since the arrival of the French Squadron meditated an Attack upon New York and Staten Island, I preceded over the Bar, with his Majesty's Ships, Sandwich, Triumph, Alcide, Terrible, Torbay, Yarmouth and Fortunée Frigate,

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 405-411.

and Anchor'd the Sandwich in the North River between the City of New York and the Fort at Paulus Hook, The other part of the Squadron abreast of the Watering place at Staten Island, with Orders to land the Sick which were numerous and Compleat their Water and Provisions with the utmost Dispatch holding themselves in Constant readiness to proceed to Sea at a moments warning.

It is with concern I must acquaint their Lordships, that having Confer'd with Sir Henry Clinton and seen the Correspondence between him and Admiral Arbuthnot upon the subject of attacking Rhode Island and destroying the French Squadron in that port it was his opinion, that it was now too late, The Enemy having had sufficient time to Fortify in such a manner as to render an Attack upon it Impracticable without a regular Seige, which at present he had not sufficient Force to undertake, more especially as Washington with his Army lay ready to pour down upon New York and Staten Island or join the French should he withdraw the Troops from those Important Posts.

Such being the Situation of Affairs, I sent Orders to Vice Admiral Arbuthnot who had been joined by four Ships I sent under Commodore Drake Viz: the Russel, Centaur, Culloden and Shrewsbury, to keep a Watchful Eye over Mons^r Ternay and his Squadron, to block it up in the best manner he was able, and as the Season of the Year was so far advanced as to render it impracticable for Mons^r Ternay to undertake any Enterprize towards Quebec or to the Northward, should he escape with His Squadron from Rhode Island and that he had in my Opinion but two choices, either to return to Europe, or to proceed to Martinique, I therefore thought it necessary for His Majesty's Service to give Orders, that in Case Mons^r Ternay escaped from Rhode Island unengaged, that Rear Admiral Graves, with Eight or Ten Copper Bottom'd Ships of the Line and two Frigates, without one moments loss of time, push'd for Martinique and Station'd himself in such a manner to Windward of that Island so as to enable him to bring Mons^r Ternay

to Action on his Approach; And to send notice to Commodore Hotham of his Arrival, that he might be join'd by the other Copper Bottom'd Line of Battle Ships which I had left under his Command. Their Lordships may be assured I shall follow with every Dispatch possible.

The Triumph, Alcide, Terrible, Intrepid, Boreas, Greyhound and Cyclops (the four last having joined me from the West Indies) having landed their Sick and compleated their Water and Provisions, I ordered them under the Command of Captain Afflect to Cruize off the mouth of the Delaware at such a Convenient distance as not to be discovered by the Enemy, in order, not only to intercept the Great Convoy of French Ships, now loaded and ready to sail from that River for the use of the French Fleet and Army at Rhode Island but likewise to keep a good look out for any French Squadron that may come to the Assistance of Mons^r Ternay to Engage it if not too Superior to his own, in that case, to join Mr. Arbuthnot with every possible Dispatch, giving him notice by his Copper Bottom'd Frigates of such an Event, and likewise send a Frigate Express to me.

I acquainted Mr. Arbuthnot with these Orders and that I should hasten the Torbay to reinforce Captain Afflect.

As it was with concern I observ'd on my approach to Sandy Hook all the Southern Coast was left unguarded for want of Frigates and in particular that no Cruizers were station'd off Charles Town Bar which swarm'd with American Privateers, which greatly distress'd the Trade of the Province, nothing escaping them. I lost no time in dispatching a sufficient number of Frigates to support the Commerce of that Important Colony, and Destroy the Rebellious Pyratival Vessels which infested it.

I have likewise Station'd a Chain of Frigates along the whole Southern Coast, and have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships Six of the Rebel Privateers have already been taken, and have not a doubt but many more will share the same fate.

I must beg you will acquaint their Lordships that there

being the greatest want of Frigates on this Station to carry on the Public Service, I hope their Lordships will approve of my having Order'd two of the largest privateers, which mounted 22 Guns each and remarkable for their Sailing, to be purchased and Commissioned as Sloops of War, they shall be Officer'd and Mann'd and instantly proceed on the Expedition the General and myself have Concerted, and which we are in hopes will give such a Blow as to secure the fidelity of the Southern Provinces.

I send Captain Brisbane of His Majesty's Ship the Alcide with these Dispatches; I am sorry to part with so good an Officer, but his extream Ill state of Health renders it absolutely necessary for him to return to Europe, he goes in the *Fortunée* a remarkable fine Frigate of 40 Guns, and which will do very considerable service when she has a Copper Bottom. Captain Christian who Commands her is a Gallant and Active Officer. I should be glad if His Majesty's Service will admit it, their Lordships would be so obliging when the Ship is Copper bottom'd to order his return to the West India Station, where he is so well acquainted.

In all probability by the time these Dispatches reaches you I shall be on my return to my Station in the West Indies.

Inclosed I send you the report¹ of the Officers of His Majesty's Yard relative to the purchase of the two Sloops of War.

Tis with the highest Satisfaction I can assure their Lordships that my arrival on the Coast of America has had the most Salutary effect, but it does not become me to dwell on this Subject, I therefore must leave it to the Army, Navy, Loyal, and even the Disloyal Americans to point out the Consequences.

I have the honor to be with real regard, Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble servant

Philip Stephens Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

¹ This report was not copied into the Letter-Book.

Certain Intelligence

Rear Admiral Rowley and Commodore Walsingham arrived at Port Royal Jamaica with the Troops and Convoy on the 2nd August.

On the 16th August Monsieur Guichen with the French Fleet of 24 Sail of the Line and upwards of 300 Merchant Ships sailed from Cape Francois for Europe.

On the 20th August Mons^r de la Mothe Picquet returned to the Cape with 7 Sail of the Line, 1 Frigate a Cutter and a Brig of 16 Guns each.

On the 29th August the most severe Hurrican ever known in that part of the World happened, in which ('tis said but without certainty) Mons^r La Mothe Piquets Squadron was, it was most remarkably severe in the Bahama Islands, every Vessel in the Island of New Providence being drove ashore; And I have since been informed every Vessel at St: Christophers shared the same fate.

Mons^r Guichen with 17 Sail of the Line proceeded with their Convoy to France and was left in the Latitude of 34° by two Vessels who sailed with him from the Cape (and since taken by two of my Cruizers) Steering with a fair Wind for Europe.

From Captain Samuel Thompson

His Majesty's Ship America at Sea
12th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

I yesterday took the Rebel Brig Ranger from Surinam bound to New London, and order'd her to New York where, hope, before this reaches you she may have arrived, should wrote you by her but the Weather being very bad I could not do it; There is on board her a Turtle which I have directed the Agents Messrs. Kemble

and Wallace to offer for your acceptance, and hope may prove agreeable.

I am now on a Cruize in Company with the Prudent, of which I suppose you are acquainted; I wrote you some time past respecting my son, he is now 4th Lieutenant on board the Royal Oak with Admiral Arbuthnot, but if you see a Suitable Occasion by your Kind Patronage and favour being conferr'd upon him, can only say, that I have a happy confidence in his Conduct that he will never disgrace your recommendation, and further it will by me be esteem'd the greatest Obligation that can be added to those already conferr'd on Sir &ca.

SAM^L THOMPSON

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Sandwich off New York 12th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed I send for their Lordships Inspection Copies of Orders and Letters which I have thought it necessary for His Majesty's Service to send to Vice Admiral Arbuthnot and Rear Admiral Graves since my arrival and taking upon me the Command of His Majesty's Ships Employed on the Coast of America.

I am with great regard Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

Sandwich Oct^r 12th 1780

Gentlemen.

I beg leave to represent to you that on my arrival here I found a very great Inconveniency in the Man-

agement of the Department of Naval Prisoners likely to ensue from the Commissary General Mr. David Spreat who has managed it as I am most credibly informed and from the Exactness of His Accounts I intirely believe, with great Credit and Propriety during a twelve Month having sent his resignation to Mr. Arbuthnot on account of some Disagreement then and still Cruizing off Rhode Island. In that space it appears he has exchanged 3000 Prisoners and had notwithstanding a Balance of Eight hundred due, a like number in three different Prison Ships, since my being here the number is increased to 1200.

It was not without some difficulty which I made for the sake of the Public only (as this Man is the only Person I can find capable of managing the Business properly) that I prevailed on him to continue to Act but by Order from me, but whatever Competitorship there might have been for the Employ his Character as a Citizen and loyal Subject, and as one that has lost £2000 in this unnatural Rebellion would deservedly give him the Preference and in all these joint Considerations it is, that I recommend him to your Board for the appointment in a way that he may not be subject to being superceded.

As this Affair is of a Complicated and Extensive nature and Requires a Correspondence to be kept up and Accounts adjected with the different Rebel States a Deputy is also necessary for him at Hallifax and Charles Town subject to his Inspection and settlement to which Clerks will be likewise necessary, I make no doubt, you will settle it on such a plan as to recompense him in some degree for his trouble, and at least give him that Bread to Eat which he has been deprived of by his attachment to Government, which I verily believe his attention and assiduity and a particular knowledge of this kind of Employment will intitle him to.

I am Gentlemen &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Commissioners for the Sick and Hurt

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Sandwich off New York 13th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed I have the honor to transmit for their Lordships Inspection the Copy of a Letter this Instant received from Captain Montagu of His Majesty's Ship Pearl, you will likewise please to acquaint them, that a very severe Gale of Wind has happen'd on the Coast in which the Squadron Cruizing off the Delaware under Captain Afflick has received considerable damage, but no time shall be lost in getting them ready to proceed again to Sea.

The Squadron under Vice Admiral Arbuthnot being at that time at anchor in Gardiners Island Bay escaped unhurt.

I am with great Regard Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Phil: Stephens Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off New York 14th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 4th Instant containing the Disposition of the Ships on this Station and informing me of your intention to put to Sea immediately in order to watch the Movements of the Chevalier de Termay and that conceiving yourself in force sufficient for that purpose, you had ordered the Shrewsbury round to this Port, and also that you should immediately send the Raisonable home, her state being such as to render her longer stay in America highly dangerous.

I am With great Regard &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot &ca.

*From Captain George Gayton*Romulus, Sandy Hook Oct^r 15th 1780

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you I arriv'd with His Majesty's Ship above mention'd off this place, but the Transport came too at Staten Island.

Vice Admiral Arbuthnot and a Commodore are in sight, the Commodore I suppose is Sir Chal^r Ogle in the Resolution.

The fleet from England are in, one of them unfortunately got a Ground, but I sent an Anchor, and Boats to her assistance which I hope will inable her to get of[f] this tide. I am Sir &ca.

Sir Geo^e B: Rodney Bart:GEO^E GAYTON*To Captain George Gayton*

Sandwich 15th October 1780

Sir

Should you receive any Intelligence of any sort that you think necessary to send an Account of to me either on your Passage where you are going, at or after the landing the Troops you will please to Dispatch Captain Barkley in the Blonde to me with it immediately. I am &ca.

G. B: RODNEY

Captain Gayton

From Captain George Montagu

Pearl off New York October 15th 1780

Sir

I am prevented the honor of waiting on you by a Violent bruise I received on Saturday last in a Gale of Wind.

On the 30th of September we fell in with a French Ship who engaged us close for two hours, and maintain'd a running fight for two hours and a half more, when she struck, she proved to be the L'Esperance from Cape Francois bound to Bourdeaux, a Frigate belonging to the King but loaded by the Merchants, and having only a Letter of Marque, mounting 26 twelve pounders on her Main Deck with a 173 Men. she had 20 Men Killed and 24 Wounded, I think it a Justice due to the Captain, to say, that he defended his Ship with great bravery. The Pearl had 6 Men Killed and 10 Wounded. Among the former was First Lieutenant Foulke of Marines, and the latter Mr: Dunbar Master.

The very Cool and determin'd Behaviour of the Officers and Ships Company merits my most sincere Acknowledgements.

On the 7th October we had a very heavy Gale of Wind, which Obliged us to throw overboard, 6 Carro-nades, 4 Six Pounders, Pinnace and several spars to Ease the Ship.

I have herewith sent you a Journal of my Proceedings since I last sail'd from the Hook, also the State and Condition of the Ship, and her Defects.

I am with the greatest regard Sir &ca.

GEO^E MONTAGU

Admiral Sir Geo^e Bridges Rodney

*From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot*¹

Royal Oak at Sea 16th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

I am honour'd with your Letters of the 8th by the Savage which joined me on the 14th at Sea.

I received On the 30th your Letters by my Secretary. My orders from the Board of Admiralty are positive

¹ Cf. letter in Mundy's *Life*, I, 388.

to attend in person the movements of the French Squadron under the Chavelier de Ternay within, and the Northward without the Limits of my Command should he exceed them. The same Orders enjoin me to detach Rear Admiral Graves with what Force I may be able to spare from the Station, should he proceed to the Windward Islands or Jamaica.

Your Orders for Rear Admiral Graves will in that Idea, and at a proper time be delivered to him.

I have not lately heard from Sir Henry Clinton of any particular Object to render my presence as Commissioner necessary at New York and therefore cannot have any pretence for diverting from the Execution of these Orders; My Resolution of Course is to continue with this Squadron, while the Enemy remain upon this Coast. The Copy of your Order to the Rear Admiral was not inclosed in any of your Letters.

I left Gardiners Bay on the 10th with the same Ideas you entertain respecting the intercepting of Succours &c: but on the 13th Montock point N. N. W. distance 30 Leagues, falling in with the Plymouth Convoy of Transports, Victualers &c: I judged it necessary to see it off Sandy Hook, as the Adamant had separated from the Hyaena, which only remained to guard them.

The Reasonable having proceeded on her way to England, and the America and Prudent being on a three Weeks Cruise, between the North End of St. Georges Bank and Cape Anne, leave with me only Nine Ships of the Line. The Shrewsbury will have joined you ere this. However I send Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle in the Resolution agreeable to your wishes.

I shall conform to your desire respecting the Savage. As the Captains of the Hyaena and Adamant are directed to put themselves under my Command, I have ordered them so to do.

As one part of your Letter points at my Inducement for remaining occasionally in Gardiners Bay, I judge it necessary to explain myself on that head. It has Sir, been my constant endeavour by that means to keep the

Ships compleatly Wooded, Water'd and Victualed, That should the Chevillier de Ternay give me the Slip, not a moment might be lost in the persuit, these means have been so successful, that no eventual delay in that Instance can possibly happen. How far Sir your own Conduct in a Similar one, has been praise worthy and proper consequences must determine.

Your partial Interference in the Conduct of the American War, is certainly unaccountable upon principals of reason and precedents of Service. The Frigates Attendant on a Cruizing Squadron you have taken upon you to Counter Order, a due representation of which, I shall certainly make, where it will have every possible Effect. And thus, I have been some time without even a Repeater.

In Answer to that part of your private Letter respecting the sending from your proper Station to this, any of your Wooden bottom'd Frigates, you may spare yourself their unnecessary trouble, for I have directions, in answer to my application, that Copper may be sent out here, for the Ships under that description, to send them home.

I inclose my Orders to Captain Lutwidge of the Triton and to Captain Robinson of the Guadaloupe, requesting you will cause their delivery.

I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

M^T ARBUTHNOT

From the Officers of the Naval Yard at New York

New York 16th Oct^r 1780

The Wharf at the Naval Yard at this Port has received considerable damage in the Course of last Winter, about five hundred and Eighty seven feet of the Ground Work is washed out, two hundred feet of the upper part and the land tyes are destroyed by the Ice, occasion'd by its carrying away a Pier adjoining the Yard on the

Westward, the property of Mr: Jacob Watson of New York.

To repair the damages one hund^d and Sixty four Cords of Wood and One thousand six hundred and Eighty seven feet of Timber with Iron Work &ca. will be required.

If the Pier to the Westward was replaced it would be a safe guard to the Naval Wharf in the Winter Season and break of the Tide of Flood so that Frigates might heave down with safety, which cannot be so conveniently done.

WM FOWLER
PROVO: WALLIS
J: HOLMAN

New York 16th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed we have the honor to send a State of the Naval Wharf at this Port, whereby you will perceive that it requires a Considerable repair, we are at the same time to observe that it is partly the property of the King's rebellious Subjects and partly of those attach'd to Government and within the lines being divided into small Lots.

We are Sir with the highest respect Your &ca.

WM: FOWLER
PROVO: WALLIS
J: HOLMAN

Sir: Geo: B: Rodney: Bart:

Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief &ca.

From William Fowler, Navy Officer at New York

Naval Yard, New York 16th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Finding that the temporary Sheds which have been erected at the Naval Yard at this Port unfit for the

reception of sails, and it being necessary that a store house suitable for receiving them should be hired, I beg leave to offer the same for your Approbation, and at the same time observe that a Store upon Watson's Wharf adjoining the Yard appears to be best Calculated for this purpose, now in the possession of the Quarter Master General of His Majesty's Land Forces, and which if the Commander in Chief is pleased to order to be given up will be most Convenient for this service. I have the honor to be &ca.

WM FOWLER

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Sir Henry Clinton

Sandwich 17th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

In consequence of a Representation from the Officers of the Yard that the Temporary Sheds where the Sails are deposited are become unfit for that service, and there pointing out to me that a Store on Watson's Wharf contiguous thereto now Occupied by the Quarter Master General, would be very convenient could it be spared and Conscious of your Readiness to forward His Majesty's Service in every Department,

I take the Liberty to request if His Majesty's Land Service will not be prejudiced thereby (and as other Stores may be found answerable to its present use I trust it will not) that you will please to give directions that the same may be given up for the use of His Majesty's Yard, to which from its situation, it is particularly adapt'd and to which it will be peculiarly serviceable.

I have the honor to be with the sincerest Esteem and Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

His Excellency General Clinton

From Captain George Gayton

Romulus off the Barr Oct^r 17th 1780

Sir

This is to acquaint you that I weighed this morning at 1½ past 6 and hope to get all the ships out soon when I shall proceed agreeable to your Orders and will take the Earliest Opportunity of writing to you after my arrival at the Place of my Destination; or on the Passage if I should receive any Intelligence worth your notice; I received your Letter yesterday respecting Captain Barkley, and have the honor to be with great respect Sir &ca.

GEORGE GAYTON

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*From Captain Thomas Tonken, Agent for Transports
at New York*

New York 18th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

On the Reduction of Charles Town about Eighty Spanish Seamen were found there, and Vice Admiral Arbuthnot directed me to appoint a Transport for that purpose, But as she was then Victualled by the Commissary and but little Naval Provisions left at Charles Town, the senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships there, directed the Master to Victual them with the Army Provisions, telling him that what he expended should be replaced by the Navy (as it has been often done on similar occasions) But the Agent Victualler now refuses to return what has been expended without your directions, In consequence of which the Master cannot settle his Accounts with the Commissary. I am therefore to hope that you will be

pleased to give the Agent Victualler an Order to replace it.

I am with great respect Sir &ca.

THOS: TOMKEN [*sic* for TONKEN]
Agent for Transports

Sir G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Captain Hugh Robinson

New York East River 18th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship Guadaloupe under my Command having been so unfortunate as to throw overboard Eight 9 Pound Guns, and the Storekeeper of this place has acquainted me that there is none in Store nor any to be purchased that will answer the purpose, I therefore beg you will be pleased to give him an Order to supply me with Eight Guns from on board the Brilliant Ordnance Store Ship now in this Harbour. I am Sir &ca.

HUGH ROBINSON

Admiral Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

Commander of His Majesty's Fleets in America

*To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot*¹

Sandwich off New York 19th Oct^r 1780

Sir

I am honour'd with your Letter of the 16th Instant, and am sorry that my Conduct has given you Offence, none was intended on my part. Every respect due to you as an Officer and a Gentleman my Inclination as well as my Duty led me to pay you in the strictest sense. If any designing men by their insinuations have led you

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 391-396.

to deviate from that good sense and politeness which Mr. Arbuthnot was always known to have, I am sorry for it and am convinced, in your cooler moments when you reflect upon some of the paragraphs in your letter, you will wish they had been couch'd in more friendly terms.

It was not inclination or Choice that brought me to America, it was the Duty I owed my King and Country. I had flatter'd myself it would have met with your Approbation. I am sorry it has not, but I own I have the Vanity to think it will meet with *His* approbation, whose, it is the greatest honor a subject can receive.

Your Anger at my partial interfering (as you term it) with the American War not a little surprizes me. I came to Interfere in the American War, to Command by Sea in it, and to do my best Endeavours towards the putting an End thereto.

I knew the Dignity of my own Rank, and the power invested in me by the Commission I bear intitled me to take the supreme Command, which I ever shall do on every Station where His Majesty's and the Public Service may make it necessary for me to go, unless I meet a Superior Officer, in which Case it will be my Duty to Obey his Orders.

On my arrival off the Hook I instantly dispatched four Ships of the Line to join you, which made your Squadron Thirteen Sail of the Line, a force fully sufficient to attack and defeat Mons^r Ternay's Squadron of Eight Sail of the Line, which I am convinced would have been the Consequence if he had given you an Opportunity. I left it entirely to you Sir how to dispose of that Squadron as to answer so desirable an End.

Your having detached the *Raisonable* to England without my Knowledge after you had received my Orders to put yourself under my Command, is I believe unprecedented in the annals of the British Navy. My Duty will oblige me to report it to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Your having detach'd the *America* and *Prudent* on a

three Weeks Cruize between the North End of St. Georges Bank and Cape Ann convinces me that you thought the remaining part of your Squadron fully sufficient to defeat any designs of Mons^r Ternay, but I own as you have given me no reasons for so doing I cannot approve of the separation of the Squadron while Mons^r Ternay lies while his whole force at Rhode Island.

You must excuse me Sir, if I think myself in a great measure responsible for the Disposition of His Majesty's Ships on the Coast of America during my Continuance thereon, And as the Superior Officer of His Majesty's Ships on this Station have taken upon me to dispose of them in such a manner as appear'd to me most conducive to His Majesty's and the Public Interest. Copies of which disposition, when I leave this Station, will be delivered to you.

In no one Instance have I had the least intention of shewing disrespect to you or your Orders, or deviating from them, but when I found it immediately necessary for His Majesty's Service. So far from it, that on my arrival off the Hook on the Guadaloupe and Triton joining me from New York, I directed them to follow your Orders. If by neglect of your Secretary or any other person, they did not receive your Orders to repair to Carolina till their return from their Cruize, disabled, into this Port it is not their fault those Orders were not put into Execution.

As His Majesty's Squadron under my Command did not meet one single Frigate from Charles Town Bar to Sandy Hook, I had reason to conclude that the Frigates you left at Charles Town had been detached from that place to Great Britain and to you with the Glorious and important News of the Victory obtained by the Earl of Cornwallis, over the Rebels and of Course that the Coast of Carolina was left unguarded which by Intelligence received from Prizes taken by the Squadron under my Command swarm'd with Privateers, therefore thought it necessary for His Majesty's Service instantly to detach the Iris and Galatea (both Copper bottom'd) to Cruize

off the Bar, and the Tham[e]s with the Convoy to return at the request of Sir Henry Clinton with Provisions for the use of the Army *then* and *now* in the greatest want thereof.

No one Step whatever that I have taken was with any other View than the immediate service of His Majesty and without the Idea of giving you offence.

Most of the Frigates are return'd Crippled by the late gale of Wind, several will be dispatch'd to you when refitted.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that L'Esperance taken by the Pearl, is in all respects a much better Frigate than the Pearl, mounts 26 Twelve Pounders upon the Main Deck and is only two years from her being built. I would recommend it to you Sir, to purchase and Commission her.

I have the honor to be with real regard

Your most Obedient and most humble servant

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Admiral Arbuthnot &ca.

To Captain Nathaniel Bateman

Sandwich off New York Oct^r 19th 1780

Sir

I have appointed Commodore Sir Charles Ogle to assemble a Court Martial, in order to enquire into your Conduct in the Action with the french fleet on the 17th of April last, which Court Martial will Commence on Monday Next. You will please to inform me if you wish a longer period of time to prepare yourself for Trial. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Bateman

From Captain Nathaniel Bateman

Yarmouth off Staten Island 19th Oct^r 1780

Sir

I have been honour'd with your Letter of this date acquainting me that you had appointed Commodore Sir Chas: Ogle to assemble a Court Martial for my Trial on Monday next and desiring to be inform'd if I wish a longer period of time to prepare.

In answer to which, I shall be prepar'd on the day you have appointed for the enquiry, and nothing could make me more happy than the prospect of being able to satisfy you in respect to my Conduct on the 17th of April last, and to deserve your Good Opinion of me as an Officer. I am with Great respect Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

NATH^L BATEMAN

Sir Geo^e B: Rodney Bart:

Admiral of the White &ca.

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sandwich Oct^r 21st 1780

Sir

Inclosed I send you an Order for the Tryal of Captain Bateman of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth, for not doing his duty in the action with the French Fleet on the 17th of April last. You will please to assemble a Court Martial for the said trial with all the Dispatch possible, that his Majesty's Service may not suffer by delay. I have the honor to be Sir, with real regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Sir: Char^l Ogle &ca.

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Captain the
Honorable John Rodney*

Sandwich off New York 21st Oct^r 1780

Sir,

I am directed by the Admiral to acquaint you, that such Ships as have their Clearances regularly signed, and are outward bound, are to have the Liberty to proceed accordingly in the same manner as if they were Signed by the Commanding Officer, as has heretofore been the Custom. I am &ca.

WM PAGETT

Captain Rodney
or the Commanding Officer of
the Guardship at the Hook

From Captain the Honorable John Rodney

Fowey Sandy Hook 21st Oct^r 1780

Sir,

Late this Evening I boarded a Brig from Lisbon bound to New York laden with Wine for the use of the Army and Navy who gave us the following Intelligence.

That 52 sail of Merchantmen under the Convoy of the Ramilies and some Frigates were taken by the French and Spanish Fleets off Madeira, that on the 22nd August Captain Thompson of a Luggar and Goffing of a Cutter Privateers belonging to Guernsey took a Spanish Packet with the Admirals Dispatches on board to Cadiz and brought her into Lisbon and the Rattle Snake was sent to England with the said dispatches. At that time he says there were 32 sail on the Line French and Spanish.

On the 7th August Admiral Geary appear'd off Lisbon

with 23 sail of the Line and was in quest of the French and Spanish Fleets.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir &ca.

J: RODNEY

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

N B: The Briggs Name is the Speedwell, Eight Weeks Passage

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off New York 22nd Oct^r 1780

Sir

Mr Miller Humphries late Master of His Majesty's Ship Sandwich but now Lieutenant in the Russel being a material Evidence on the trial of Captain Bateman now going home.

I must desire you will give directions for his coming down immediately by the same Convoy which brings this Letter to you Viz: the St: Lucia Brig.

I have the honor to be with real regard &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Admiral Arbuthnot.

From David Laird, Commander of the Jersey Prison Ship

New York Oct^r 22nd 1780

Sir

You having been pleased to convert His Majesty's Ship Jersey under my Command from an Hospital Ship to a Prison Ship, and as I have long wished and expected to get into a more Active line of Life than that of Commanding either the One or the Other, I was in great hopes that when she was made a Prison Ship I should not have remain'd long in her as Captain. I am therefore to re-

quest you will be pleased to grant me Liberty to return to England to solicit employment and preferment there, without you should have occasion for my Service here. I am &ca.

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

D^D LAIRD

From Morgan Waters

October 23rd 1780

Sir

I beg leave to represent to you, that I have for some time past been very much afflicted with the Rhumatism, which with other Infirmities incident to Old Age, being upwards of Sixty four renders me totally incapable of performing my Duty as Purser of His Majesty's Ship Guadaloupe.

I am therefore to request the favour that you will permit me to resign my Warrant as Purser, in order to try what my Native Country will do towards my Recovery. I am &ca.

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

MORGAN WATERS

To Captain Gideon Johnston

Sandwich, Oct^r 25th 1780

Sir,

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter of this days date, requesting your Ships Company may be supply'd with fresh Beef. I have no Objection thereto but your stay will not admit of it, as it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service that your Ship should sail in Twenty four hours, and you will be amply supply'd therewith at Gardners Bay, where you are bound in case of not falling in with Admiral Arbuthnot agreeable to

his Rendezvous, or where you will probably at all events be soon afterwards. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Johnson of His Majesty's Ship Adamant

P S: You can't sail too soon

From Captain Gideon Johnston

Adamant Oct^r 26th 1780

Sir

I have this moment received your Letter of yesterday's date. Be assured there has not been any time lost in Complying with yours or Admiral Arbuthnots Orders, it has been and will be my utmost wish to carry on the Service with Spirit, 'tis impossible for me to say that the Adamant will be able to sail exactly to your wish, but one thing you may rest assur'd in that there shall be nothing wanting in my power to forward the Service. We have at present 180 ashore mostly refitted, and will be rafted off with all possible dispatch, having none but our Own Boats to assist us therein and the rafting them off depends on the Tides and Weather. I beg leave to acquaint you we have no Pilot for Gardiners Bay or any other part of the Coast, the one sent on board from the Alcide is gone on shore very ill indeed. I must also acquaint you that here has no Gunner made his Appearance as yet on board. I am Sir &ca.

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. GIDEON JOHNSTON

From Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Royal Oak at Sea 26th Oct^r 1780

Sir

I have received your Letter [of October 22] acquainting me, that Mr Miller Humphries is a material Evidence

on the Trial of Captain Bateman: I have upon that principal ordered him to proceed to New York.

I am Sir your most humble servant

M^T ARBUTHNOT

To Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney

Commander in Chief at the Leeward Islands

From Major Oliver Delancey, Deputy Adjutant General

Head Quarters, Oct^r 26th 1780

Sir

The Store Keeper of the Ordnance not having in his possession any Pistols except such as belong to the Navy and there being a Number necessary to Compleat the deficiencies of the Army,

His Excellency the Commander in Chief [Sir Henry Clinton] request you will be good enough, to give permission that the number wanted may be Issued upon proper application being made.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir &ca.

OL: DELANCEY

D: A: General

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Captain Gideon Johnston

Sandwich 27th Oct^r 1780

Sir

As I hear Vice Admiral Arbuthnot is return'd to Gardiners Bay it is necessary for His Majesty's Service you join him without a moment's loss of time in that Bay. I am &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Captain Johnston

Adamant

From Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Resolution, 27th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Lieutenant Ley who has served with me as my first Officer ever since I commanded the Resolution, and who has requested my Assistance in his Letter of the 23rd Inst: and which Letter I have the honor to inclose and solicit in his behalf your attention. I can aver the authenticity of the greatest part of this Letter; and as I wish to do him all the service in my Power, should recommend his going to England, where he might hope to meet that reward forty years service merit, or from his friend Admiral Geary that promotion he expects. As such I beg to become his advocate with you and solicit leave for him to go home. I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

CHA^L OGLE

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sandwich off New York, 27th Oct^r 1780

Sir

I am honour'd with your Letter of this date, inclosing one from Lieutenant Ley of His Majesty's Ship Resolution, and cannot have the least Objection to his returning to Great Britain, where I hope he will meet with that promotion from his Patron Admiral Geary which his long Services deserve.

I have the honor to be, with great regard Sir &ca.

G. B: RODNEY

Commodore Sir Chal^r Ogle

From the Officers of the Naval Yard at New York

New York 27th Oct^r 1780

Sir

Money being wanting for paying two Months Pay which become due to the Artificers &ca. employed in His Majesty's Yard at this Port the 31st Inst^t the Naval Officer has drawn, sett of Bills of Exchange for Five Thousand Pounds Sterling for enabling him to pay the same, which we inclose for your Approbation. We are at the same time to observe that the Lords of the Admiralty have been pleased to acquaint the Commissioners of the Navy, that they have resolved not to send out any Money to America, the Board therefore directed Mr: Fowler to draw Bills for such Sums as may be wanted at this port, and as they are only Saleable on the Eve of a Pacquet or other Vessels sailing for England, it becomes necessary not only to draw for what is due at that time but also to have a sufficient sum remaining to answer such Contingent Charges as may occur during such intervals. We have the honor to be with great respect Sir &ca.

WM: FOWLER
PROVO: WALLIS
J: HOLMAN

Sir: Geo: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹

Sandwich off New York 28th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

Since my last of the 13th Instant by His Majesty's Ship the *Fortunée*, I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that the Squadron of his Maj-

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life of Admiral Lord Rodney*, I, 414-417, under date of Oct. 20, 1780.

esty's Ships and Frigates which I had Station'd off the Delaware received very considerable damage in a Violent Gale of Wind, and most of them have been obliged to return into Port in a Crippled Condition. The Terrible and Cyclops lost their Mizen Masts, the Guadaloupe was compelled to throw some of her Guns overboard, and almost every Ship was much damaged as to be obliged to return into Port.

Every Dispatch possible has been used in refitting them, and I have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships that in a few days every Ship will be ready for Sea.

You will likewise Please to acquaint them that during the refitting the Squadron I thought it most proper time to Order the Trial of Captain Bateman of His Majesty's Ship the Yarmouth, for his Behaviour in the action of the 17th of April last with the French Fleet; It was impossible to bring on his Trial sooner with[out] great detriment to His Majesty's Service the Fleet under my Command having been in Constant Service ever since that memorable day, and hourly liable to be called out to action.

The Ships I station'd upon the Coast have been very successful against the Enemy's Privateers and Ships of War Eleven having been taken since my arrival, and the others obliged to take shelter in their Ports.

By the great number of Prisoners taken (which amount to upwards of 1400) the Rebels will find it extremely difficult to Man the Continental Ships of War now in the Delaware and at Boston; Their Lordships by the Gazette Extraordinary which I have the honor to Inclose for their perusal, will perceive to what a low state the Rebel Navy is reduced, and I am fully persuaded, that if their Prisoners are not released, it will be of the greatest advantage to the Commerce of His Majesty's Loyal Subjects, and the severest blow that can be given to the Rebels whose chief support arrises from the Piratical Captors they make.

The Wretches with which their Privateers are Mann'd

have no principal whatever, they live by Piracy, and the plunder of their fellow Subjects; when they have been released out of humanity to return to their families and live by honest Industry, they forget the Mercy that had been shown them, and instantly return to renew their Acts of Piracy.

Since my arrival here I have allowed none of them to be released, and have given notice that till the Seven Hundred Prisoners their Congress owes are liquidated the Rebel Sailors will be detain'd in Confinement; As with pleasure I can assure their Lordships that very few of the British Seamen are in the Possession of the Rebels.

The great increase of Prisoners and the extreme bad Condition of the Prison Ships rendered it necessary to convert the Jersey, Hospital Ship into a Prison Ship which I hope will meet with their Lordships Approbation, more especially as a Naval Hospital Ship (because unfit for that Service) totally useless, and by converting her into a Prison Ship has saved a considerable expence to Government.

As the Season is now so far advance[d], there is little probability of an Enemy's Squadron arriving on the Coast, I have undoubted Authority to say, that Mons^r Monteil with 8 Sail of the Line (being that part of the French Squadron left by Mons^r Guichen on his return to Europe at Cape Francois) had Orders to join Mons^r Ternay at Rhode Island, and had certainly attempted it, if he had not receiv'd Intelligence by a Bermudian (spoke to by the Centaur) who under the pretence of being bound to Turks Island for Salt, the Traitor only went to Cape Francois, and gave his Majesty's Enemy's information of the Squadron under my Command Steering for America.

My stay here will be very short, the Season for Action in the West Indies approaches, not a Moments time shall be lost by me in doing my Duty to His Majesty and the Public and I flatter myself I shall have their Lordships Approbation on my Conduct.

Inclosed I have the honor of transmitting the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships now at New York, and am with great Regard Sir

Your most Obedient & most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

List of His Majesty's Squadron under the Command of
Vice Admiral Arbuthnot
watching the motions of Mons^r Ternay &ca.

Royal Oak	Shrewsbury	Frigates
London	Centaur	
Resolution	America	Ro[e]buck
Russel	Robust	Amphitrite
Bedford	Europe	Richmond
Prudent	Raisorable	Vulcan, Fire Ship
Culloden		

Ditto under Captain Afflick on a Cruize

Frigates

Triumph	
Terrible	Cyclops
Alcide	Boreas
Intrepid	Greyhound
	Guadaloupe
	Triton
	Raleigh

Ditto under Captain Gayton with the Troops
proceeding on the Expedition

Romulus	Delight
Blond	Swift
Beaumont	Otter
Hallifax	Dependance
	Cornwallis

Galatea } off Charles Town cruising for the
Iris } Protection of the Trade
Thames, gone with a Convoy to Charles Town

Sandwich, arm'd Ship	} at Charles Town to bring back
Loyalist	
Rainbow . . .	gone to Hallifax with a Convoy
Bonetta . . .	at D[itt]o
Allegiance	at D°
Delaware . . .	at D°
Charles Town	at D°
Savage . . .	at D°
Camilla . . .	at D° to Careen
Albany . . .	at Penobscot
Fowey . . .	Guardship at the Hook
Sandwich	between New York and Paulus Hook in the N. River
Yarmouth	between Staten Island and Long Island
Torbay	D° preparing to proceed to Sea to Join Captain Afflick
Keppel	} In the Sound to protect the Wooders
Polly Schooner	
Avenger	
Vulture	} and Foragers between Long Island and the Main
Clinton Galley	
Argo	} North River
Crane	
Philadelphia	
St: Lucia	
Spit fire	
Hope Brig	} In the Sound about Staten Isl ^d and Long Isl ^d
Pachahunta	
Hannibal	
	} Fitting for Sea

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹

[Marginal note:] By the Roebuck, Pacquet

Sir

Sandwich off New York 28th Oct^r 1780

I feel the greatest concern whenever I am under the Necessity of giving their Lordships the pain of reading

¹ Printed, without the enclosure, in Mundy's *Life*, I, 418-422, under date Oct. 30, 1780.

a Letter which Indicates any disagreement between Officers of high Rank in His Majesty's Naval Department, and more especially when acting in His *Real* Service, but Vice Admiral Arbuthnot having taken it into his head to be highly offended at me for doing what I thought my *Duty* to His Majesty and the Public, and acquainting me by letter dated the 16th Oct^r Instant that he would remonstrate to their Lordships against my Conduct, I think it a Duty I owe myself to transmit to the Admiralty Board Copies of my Orders and Letters to Mr. Arbuthnot (with his Answers to me, his Superior Officer) that their Lordships may judge which of us has most cause to trouble them with Complaints.

In my Conduct as an Admiral Commanding a Great Fleet, I am responsible to none but their Lordships, their Approbation is my Ambition, their disapprobation it is my Duty with humility to submit to, as I shall be convinced I have deserv'd reproof and if in the Command of the Fleet they have done me the honor to trust to my Charge, I have Committed Errors in Judgement, I have such Confidence in their Justice that I am sure they will not attribute them to Errors of the Will.

Ever since I have had the honor of being an Officer in the Navy, I have made it an invariable rule to obey, and can not tax myself with ever once wilfully disobeying the Orders of a Superior Officer when upon His Majesty's Service.

The Superior Officer who gives the Order is answerable, not the Inferior who Obeys it.

That I have been extremely tender in issuing Orders to Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, and been attentive towards paying him every respect due to his rank, the Inclosed Letters, I am sure, will Convince their Lordships.

If in his Answers to me his Letters have not been penn'd with that Cordiality that ought to pass between Officers acting in the Public Service, I am sorry for it! they effect not me. I am assham'd to mention what appears to me the real cause and from whence Mr. Arbuthnot's Chagrene proceeds, but the Proofs are so plain,

that Prize Money is the Occasion, that I am under the necessity to transmit them.

On my arrival off Sandy Hook I detach'd Commodore Drake with 4 Sail of the Line to join Vice Admiral Arbuthnot with letter marked *number One*, without any other Order. On my arrival at New York, where my Duty called me to consult with Sir Henry Clinton, I found it necessary for His Majesty's Service to give Mr. Arbuthnot Orders to put himself under my Command not only for the better Carrying on the Public Service, but likewise to prevent any litigious Suits relative to Prize Money which Mr. Arbuthnot had given me too much reason to expect, and which if their Lordships will give themselves the trouble to peruse, they may see by the Inclosed papers it was fully intended.

I can solemnly assure their Lordships that I had not the least conception of any other Prize Money on the Coast of America, but that which would be most honourably obtain'd by the Destruction of the Enemy's Ships of War and Privateers, but when Prize Money appear'd predominant in the mind of my Brother Officer I was determin'd to have my share of that Bounty most graciously bestow'd by His Majesty and the Public.

Mr. Arbuthnot taxes me in his letter of the 16th Inst: with deviating from the Orders he had Issued to the Frigates, such deviation was absolutely necessary at the time for His Majesty's Service; it was impossible for him, then station'd in Gardiners Bay, one Hundred and Thirty miles distant from New York, and liable every moment to put to Sea, to know the Situation of affairs! could he possibly imagine that I his Superior Officer, then upon the spot at New York and who came determined to give every assistance in my Power towards bringing the Rebellion to a Conclusion, could so far forget my Duty as to neglect Issuing Orders for so desirable an End; and wait five or Six Days at least for his Approbation. No, Sir, I was convinced that the whole Southern Coast was exposed, not a Single Frigate off Carolina, nor not one to be seen from that Coast to

Sandy Hook. I therefore without a Moments delay hasten'd the Ships out from this Port, Stationed them off every Province, by which means 13 Sail of Rebel Privateers have been already taken, and the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects which was not safe even in Sight of Sand Hook has been most effectually protected. I flatter'd myself I should have had the Honor even of Mr. Arbuthnot's Approbation of my Conduct; I am sorry I had not! but if I am so happy as to meet with that of their Lordships, it will more than fully Compensate.

The Rank I have the honor to bear in His Majesty's Navy, the Command agreeable to that Rank I have Publicly assum'd according to the Invariable rule of Service, the Orders I had Issued for his Majesty's Service, the Notice and Orders I had given Vice Admiral Arbuthnot Obliges me to desire you will lay before their Lordships the Inclosed Original Orders, Given by Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, that they may be convinc'd how much he has forgot himself, and how highly Disrespectful his Behaviour has been to Me his Superior Officer in issuing Orders to Officers both Military and Civil in the Naval Department then under the immediate Direction of my Flag, without ever Signifying to me he had so done.

Tho' I had such just reason to Complain of the Indignity Offer'd me, I would not suffer it to cause the least delay in the Public Service but directed the Officers who brought me Mr. Arbuthnot's Orders to hasten the supplies demanded and appointed a Convoy to Conduct them to Gardiner's Bay.

His Dispatching the Raisonable to England, without acquainting me prior to her Sailing, and after he had received my Orders to put himself under my Command, is I believe unprecedented in the Annals of the Navy; And it is with the greatest concern my Duty obliges me to make their Lordships acquainted therewith.

I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Phil: Stephens Esq^r

Inclosed in the above Letter

Sandwich 28th October 1780

On my arrival at New York the Agent for Prizes acquainted me that he had a very considerable Sum of Money in his hands belonging to me, which Captain Robinson of His Majesty's Ship Guadaloupe had directed him to pay me, as my Share of the Prizes he had taken while under my Orders, he was carrying Cannon from the West Indies, in order to be Employ'd in the Reduction of Charles Town. The Agent for the said Prizes came again the next day and informed me that Mr: Green, Secretary to Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, had that morning been with him and claim'd my Share as belonging to Mr. Arbuthnot altho' the Judge of the Admiralty had declared that Mr. Arbuthnot could not have the least pretence to any Share in those Prizes they having been taken by a Ship under my Orders which Ship had been several Months in the West Indies, had been detain'd by Rear Admiral Parker and her Captain received Orders from him to put himself under his Command, he had likewise received Orders from Commodore Hotham, and Mr: Laforey Commanding Officer at Antigua, and had been Employed in Cruizing to Windward of Barbadoes for the protection of that Island and the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects. I found her on the Station and of Course took her under my Command with the rest of His Majesty's Ships in those Seas. General Vaughan pres[s]ing me for a Convoy for a Transport loaded with Ammunition in Order to Carry on the Siege of Charles Town, I detached the Guadaloupe on that service, Captain Robinson on his Passage took the Prizes, which he directed his Agent to pay me the Admirals share, as he acknowledged himself under my Orders.

To the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

[Marginal note:] By the Roebuck Pacquet

Sandwich off New York 28th Oct^r 1780

Gentlemen

Inclosed I have the honor to send you the Commissary General of Prisoners account of what Prisoners there has been Exchanged as likewise of the number now remaining in this Harbour.

On my arrival here I found the greatest Confusion in every Branch of the Department belonging to your Board, The Hospital on Long Island in the greatest disorder, Owing to a Quarrel between the Surgeon and Physician, the latter of whom has been suspended by Order of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, and the Surgeon of the Hospital Ship absent by Order, and serving on board the Squadron.

Many of the Ships of the Squadron under my Command being extremely Sickly there was a necessity of sending 600 Men on shore to the Naval Hospital on Long Island then under the direction of Mr. Arbuthnot's Surgeon for the recovery of their health, on his applying to me for Assistant Surgeons, I gave him Orders accordingly.

I likewise found two Prison Ships with about 400 Prisoners, under the direction of nobody, the Person who had been warranted by Mr. Arbuthnot as Commissary having had his Warrant (as he told me) taken from him by Mr. Arbuthnot's Secretary, and never return'd to him again, or any Person appointed in his room.

Such being the Situation of this department, I prevail'd on Mr. Sproat to continue to Act as Commissary till I heard from Mr. Arbuthnot concerning him, and from the great increase of Prisoners, Thirteen Privateers having been taken by the Squadron under my Command since my arrival on the Coast; there was a necessity of Converting the Jersey Hospital Ship into a Prison Ship, the Surgeon of which assured me on his return here she

was of no use as an Hospital Ship, and that converting her into a Prison Ship would be a great saving to the Public, as the Stores and Medicines would be better on shore in the Hospital on Long Island.

My Duty obliges me to point to your Board that I think it would be a great advantage to the Public if you would send your own proper Officers to preside over the Hospital and Prisoners; I have made it my Business to Enquire into the Character of Mr. David Sproat, who acts now as Commissary of Prisoners, he is reported to me to bear the best of Character's, and by what I can learn he is the most proper Person in this Country to Act as Commissary of Prisoners.

Inclosed I send you his Letter and Memorial to me, and I have directed him to acquaint your Board with every Step taken relative to the Prisoners of War, and for him to Act as Commissary till further Orders.

I have likewise directed him to send a Cartel Ship to France with French Prisoners, in order to save the heavy expence they would be to Government if they continued the Ensuing Winter in New York, he is directed to send to you the Ship and Masters Names, and the number of Prisoners deliver'd.

I have the honor to be with real regard Gentlemen &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt

To Captain Gideon Johnston

Sir

Sandwich, Oct^r 29th 1780

As it is of the utmost Consequence to his Majesty's Service that you join Vice Admiral Arbuthnot immediately; I must desire you will proceed without a moments loss of time to Gardiners Bay for that purpose. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Johnston
Adamant

From Henry Davies, Navy Victualer at New York

Grand Duke Victualler, off New York
29th October 1780

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you that I have received an Order from Vice Admiral Arbuthnot dated off Block Island the 26th Instant directing to send in Victualing Transports under the Escort of His Majesty's Ship Adamant, three Months Provisions for the use of the Squadron under his Command, which with your permission, I purpose sending off if possible on Tuesday.

I am Sir &ca.

HENRY DAVIES

Sir Geo: B: Rodney Bart: &ca.

To Henry Davies, Navy Victualer at New York

Sandwich 30th October 1780

Sir

I have order'd the Adamant to join Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, when the Victualing Transports are ready to proceed to Gardiner's Bay I shall order a Vessel for their protection.

I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Henry Davies Esq^r

From Captain Skeffington Lutwidge

Triton, East River 30th Oct^r 1780

Sir

The Surgeon of His Majesty's Ship Triton under my Command, having represented to me that the Ship's Company are very much afflicted with Scorbutic Com-

plaints which a daily supply of fresh Provisions would be greatly conducive to remove, I beg you will be pleased to Order the said Ship to be supplied therewith. I am &ca.

SKEFF^N LUTWIDGE

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

[Marginal note:] By the Roebuck

Sandwich off New York 30th Oct^r 1780

Sir,

Commodore Sir Cha^r Ogle having applied to me by Letter For Permission for Mr: Ley to return to England upon the Supposition that he is appointed one of Admiral Geary's Lieutenants, I have Complied with his request, and Charged Lieutenant Key [*sic* for Ley] with my Public Dispatches.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most Obedient and very humble Servant

G: B: RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, 31st October 1780

Sir

I have been honor'd with your Letter of the 14th August, inclosing the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under your Command, and likewise Papers relative to Captain Walter of His Majesty's Ship Camelion, if his health is such as renders it necessary for him to go to England, I am sure I have not the least Objection.

In all probability I shall have the pleasure of seeing

you in a few days after the Receipt of this Letter, and am with real regard Sir &ca.

G. B: RODNEY

Commodore Hotham

From Henry Davies, Navy Victualer at New York

Grand Duke Victualer off New York

October 31st 1780

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you that in Compliance with your directions, I have sent to the Provost a Quantity of Provisions for the Use of the Prisoners ordered there yesterday from the Jersey, but as the Provost Martial will not suffer any Person under him to take charge of the King's Provisions and Stores allotted for the purpose of Victualing those Prisoners, I am to request you will please to grant me your Instructions for securing to this department the necessary indemnification.

Mr: Sproat the Commissary General for Naval Prisoners, (if you think proper) will assist in regulating the Victualing of the Prisoners of the Provost, especially as his Office is so far detached from the Town.

I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

HENRY DAVIES

Sir Geo^e B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Henry Davies, Navy Victualer at New York

Grand Duke, Victualer off New York

31st Oct^r 1780

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you that the two Victualing Transports named in the Margin,¹ are ready to proceed

¹ Firm, Lynx

with the proportion of Provisions &ca. required to Victual the Squadron under the Command of Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot in Gardiners Island Bay, whenever you please to appoint a ship to protect them. I am Sir

HENRY DAVIES

Adm^l Sir G: B: Rodney Bart.

From Captain Hugh Robinson

Guadaloupe, East River New York

Nov^r 2nd 1780

Sir

His Majesty's Ship Guadaloupe under my Command, having been in want of a Watch Bell these several Cruizes, and as I find there is one to be purchased now belonging to the Old East Indiaman sold the other day, the Merchants being willing to sell it provided the Builder chuses to purchase.

I therefore beg you will be pleas'd to give him an Order to supply the Guadaloupe with that said Bell, there being no other in the Town I can hear of. I am Sir &ca.

HUGH ROBINSON

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

*From John Mervin Nooth, Superintendent General of
All the Hospitals at New York*

New York 3rd November 1780

Sir,

Altho' I have not the honor of being acquainted with your Excellency, I have notwithstanding taken the Liberty of addressing you on a subject that appears to be of Consequence to His Majesty's Service in the West Indies.

By some unaccountable accident an Assortment of Medicines intended for the use of the Troops at St. Lucia, was some time since brought to New York. These Medicines are still here, no safe opportunity having since offer'd itself for sending them to the destin'd Port. Shall I therefore request your Excellency will be pleased to allow them to be put on board some ship under your Command, that will sail shortly for the West Indies.

Your well known Zeal, Sir, for His Majesty's Service encouraged me to make this Application, and I hope my own wishes to forward the Service will apologize for this freedom.

I have the honor to be &ca.

J: MERVIN NOOTH
Superintendant General of the
British and Foreign Hospitals

Sir G. B: Rodney Bart.

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off New York 4th Nov^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed I have the Honor to send you an Order for the Culloden and Centaur to join me off Sandy Hook, as soon as possible after the Prudent and America have rejoin'd your Squadron.

As the Court Martials will be over tomorrow, I shall proceed with the Squadron under my Command to Sandy Hook, where I shall wait for the junction of the Culloden and Centaur, but in Case you should choose to keep the Culloden you will please to substitute Commodore Drake in the Russel to join me in her room.

As I have reason from my Intelligence to believe the Enemy will soon be in full force at the Caribee Islands, my return thither will be more necessary, which nothing will retard but my not being joined by the two ships of my Squadron, at Present with you in Gardners Bay.

Captain Johnson of His Majesty's Ship Adamant after he had received my Orders to join you agreeable to his Rendezvous, acquainted me that he had received Orders from you to Convoy Transports with Provisions to Gardiners Bay, his Junction with you appearing to me of more Consequence to his Majesty's Service than his waiting for the Transports who were not ready, I ordered him to join you immediately with the Generals and my Dispatches the Transports will be Conducted to you thro' the sound (if the wind permits) by His Majesty's Sloop the Swift who will sail tomorrow.

Inclosed I send you the Survey on His Majesty's Ship the Pearl by which you will perceive the Condition of that Ship and must acquaint you that the Prize (L'Esperance) will in a few days be ready for a Survey in case you chuse to have her taken into His Majesty's Service.

The Guadaloupe will soon be in a Condition to join you, by her Commander I shall send for your Information on the Disposition of the Ships I have thought it necessary to make for His Majesty's Service.

Whichever of the Ships you chuse to detain it will be proper that the Company of Lord Chewton's Regiment on board her should be divided between the other two ships in order that that Regiment should be compleat and ready to be landed on their arrival in the West Indies. I must desire you will please to order my Lieutenant and Tender to rejoin me.

I have the honor to be Sir with great regard

You most Obedient and most humble servant

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot

G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sir

Sandwich 8th Nov^r 1780

As the Wind is fair for the Store Ship and Victualers to join you I would not delay a moment in ordering

Captain Robinson to proceed without loss of time on that service.

Inclosed I have the honor to send you the Information I received yesterday relative to the Enemy's Force in the Delaware, the Intrepid and Cyclops are off that River and as I shall proceed tomorrow to Sandy Hook other ships will be ordered on that Station, an exact list of which and those I may think it necessary for His Majesty's Service to proceed with the Troops to the Cheseapeak and Charles Town shall be transmitted to you.

I have the honor to be Sir with real regard &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot

To the Honorable William Bayard of New York City

Sandwich off New York 8th Nov^r 1780

Sir,

Having been informed that you are appointed Agent for L'Esperance French Frigate Captured by His Majesty's Ship the *Pearl*, and being the Superior Officer upon this Station I claim (as such) my Proportion Half an Eighth of the said Prize, and request it may be paid into the hands of Mr Blane and White my Agents.

Inclosed Sir, I send you an attested Copy of my Order to Vice Admiral Arbuthnot to put himself under my Command by which you will perceive that my Claim commences from the 15th of September, and continues till such time as I leave the Coast of America.

I have the honor to be with real regard Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Will^m Bayard Esq^r

To Captain Thomas Tonken, Agent for Transports

Sandwich off New York 8th Nov^r 1780

Sir

I must desire you will order all the Vessels and Transports under your Directions bound to England, immediately to proceed to Sandy Hook in order for their sailing under the protection of His Majesty's Ship the *Yar-mouth*.

Should any from Neglect be left behind, you are to Discharge them from His Majesty's Service. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Tomken [*sic* for Tonken]
Agent for Transports

To Captain Hugh Robinson

Sandwich Nov^r 12th 1780

Sir

His Majesty's Service requiring that there be not a moments delay in putting your Orders into Execution, I desire you will proceed instantly with the Victualers and Store Ships to Gardiners Bay through the Sound if the Wind will permit, if not by the other passage. You are to stay Sir for nothing. The Fleet lies in the greatest want of the Stores and Provisions. I must not hear of your being at New York tomorrow. I am &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Captain Robinson of H. M. S. *Guadaloupe*

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Sandwich 12th Nov^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed I send the Original Sentence passed by the Court Martial¹ on Captain Bateman late of His Majesty's Ship Yarmouth, And have the honor to be Sir

Your very humble Servant

G: B: RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*²

By the Yarmouth

Sandwich off Sandy Hook 13th Nov^r 1780

Sir

Since my last of the 28th Oct^r by the Roebuck Pacquet, I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships that all the Convoys from Great Britain, Ireland and South Carolina with Provisions for the Navy and Army are safe arrived at this Port. The Charon and Hussar having left at Charles Town the Trade and Victualers bound to that Port.

Mons^r Ternay with the French Squadron still remains at Rhode Island and Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot with the Squadron under his Command in Gardiner's Bay in order to watch his Motions.

I directed the said Vice Admiral to recall the Prudent and America which he had detached from his Squadron to Cruize in Boston Bay, and on their Junction with him to Order the Russel and Centaur to join the Squadron under my Command off Sandy Hook immediately in

¹The minutes and sentence of the court-martial on Captain Nathaniel Bateman are printed in the *Publications of the Navy Records Society*, vol. XXXII (*The Letters and Papers of Charles, Lord Barham*, I), pp. 382-398.

²Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 423-428.

order for their proceeding with me to the West Indies. And altho' those Ships have not joined me, I shall proceed without a Moments loss of time to Sea when Wind and Weather permits.

By a Vessel who left St. Christopher's on the 11th Oct^r (being blown out of the Road in a sort of Hurricane) I learn that everything was Quiet in the Caribbee Islands, and that the Enemy had no Ships of War remaining at Martinique and likewise that the Ramilies and Southampton had passed St: Christoper's in their way to Jamaica.

So many Ships of War at Jamaica and the Thunderer and Berwick not having returned to St: Lucia; as your Letter dated [blank] informed me it was their Lordships Orders they should so do, will leave the Windward Station (which in all probability will again be the Scene of War) very bare of Ships! I trust and hope and have not a doubt but their Lordships intention is that I shall be fully supported, as far as the nature of the Public Service will admit in Order to Enable Me to carry on the War with Advantage to His Majesty and the State.

I left Orders with Commodore Hotham to send home with the other Convoy the Fame, Suffolk, and Vigilant, as likewise the Vengeance if her Condition required it. I hope those Ships are now on their Passage to Great Britain, should they not be sailed before my arrival at St. Lucia, I shall hasten them home, that they may be repair'd before the Ensuing Summer.

I likewise send with these Dispatches the Yarmouth who is in great want of repair, and have left Orders for the Thames and Fowey (who are in the same Condition) to proceed from New York with the Trade, Empty Transports and Victualers on the 30th of this Month to Great Britain, which I hope will meet with their Lordships Approbation.

Inclosed I have the honor to send for their Lordships Inspection the Letter ¹ of Captain Gayton of His Ma-

¹ Captain George Gayton's letter was not copied into the Letter-book. Ed.

jesty's Ship the Romulus to whom I have given the Command of the Enterprize Sir Henry Clinton desired might be carried on in Chesepeake. Their Lordships will perceive that the Expedition was Successful, and might have answer'd many good purposes, had it not been for the misfortune which happen'd to part of Lord Cornwallis's Army, and which obliged them to retire from James's River in Order to support his Lordship in Cape Fear River North Carolina. Tomorrow a Reinforcement of Troops under the Command of Brig^r General O'Hara sails for Cape Fear River, which I shall take care shall be supported with a strong Convoy, going myself with the Squadron under my Command part of the way for that purpose.

I[n] vain have I solicited for a Body of Troops to sail with me and Act in the West Indies, fully Convinced I am, if that could be obtain'd a Port might be taken in Martinique and rendered tenable, which would deprive the French Fleet of sheltering themselves in the Bay of Fort Royal and enable His Majesty's Fleet to anchor with safety in the said Bay, and at all times support the Troops; If this should not be thought proper, the Troops might be employed in the Reduction of the British Islands taken by the Enemy, and at the very time most proper for Troops to Act with advantage in that Climate.

Sir Henry Clinton who is very sensible of the advantage it would be to the Nation for Troops to Act both in America and the West Indies at the proper Seasons, is very sorry that the situation of affairs would not permit him to comply with my request; but their Lordships may rest assur'd that if the Troops at present in the West Indies are in a Condition to Act, both General Vaughan and myself will leave nothing unattempt'd that can possibly be undertaken with a probability of Success.

On my arrival in those Seas I shall send an Express to their Lordships Acquainting them with the Situation of affairs in that part of the World.

Inclosed I send you the Minutes¹ of the different Court Martials which have been held since my Arrival in the West Indies, and have the honor to be Sir &ca.

Phil: Stephens Esq^r

G: B: RODNEY

To the Navy Board

Sandwich, Sandy Hook 13th Nov^r 1780
Gentlemen,

By His Majesty's Ship the Yarmouth whose Condition is such as to make it absolutely necessary for her to be sent to England to be refitted, I take the Opportunity of acquainting you that on my sailing from the West Indies for North America, I left Orders with Commodore Hotham for the Fame, Vigilant and Suffolk, as also the Vengeance, should he think it necessary, to be sent to England with the October Convoy that they might arrive in time to be got ready for Employment against the ensuing Spring, should any thing have prevented them, or either of them sailing agreeable thereto, you may depend on their being dispatch'd immediately on my arrival in the West Indies, which I expect to be by the end of this month, as I am now at the Hook, and ready to sail the moment the wind becomes fair.

I am with great regard Gentlemen &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy

To the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

Sandwich, Sandy Hook 13th Nov^r 1780
Gentlemen,

Inclosed I have the honor to send you the Commissary General for Prisoners Account by which you will perceive that a large sum of Money is due to him.

¹ These minutes were not copied into the Letter-Book.

I have approved his Bills of Exchange for three hundred Pounds Sterling, in order that he may be enabled to carry on the Public Business, he is a Person of unblemished Character, and permit me to add he is the most proper Person that can be appointed to that Office.

I am with Great Regard Gentlemen &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

To the Commissioners for Victualing the Navy

Sandwich, Sandy Hook 13th Nov^r 1780

Gentlemen

By His Majesty's Ship the Yarmouth instantly about to sail for England, I take the Opportunity to inform you that the Cork Fleet under the Convoy of the Charon but last from Charles Town where the part bound thither was left, arrived at this place very seasonably the day before yesterday, and also that the Peace and Plenty Victualer which came out under the Convoy of the Hyæna was stranded on Long Island not far from the Hook, where she is gone to pieces, a part only of her Cargo consisting of Wet Provisions being saved.

I am Gentlemen &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commissioners for Victualing His Majestys Navy

To Captain George Gayton

Sandwich, Sandy Hook 13th Nov^r 1780

Sir,

I have received your Dispatches by your Lieutenant, giving an Account of your progress in the Chesapeak, and am sorry that it has not been thought adviseable to

continue the Progress of His Majesty's Arms up James River.

The Raleigh with Brig^r General O Hara on board will Join you off Cape Fear, her Captain has Orders to put himself under your Command.

Inclosed I send you the secret Orders given you by Vice Admiral Arbuthnot which you will please to follow for your further Instruction. And as I leave this Coast the moment the wind permits, your Correspondence for the future must be with the said Vice Admiral.

I wish you Success in all your undertakings, And am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Gayton

To Captain George Gayton

Sandwich 14th Nov^r 1780

Sir,

I have received your Letter dated Hampton River 5th Nov^r 1780 informing of the dispositions of the Ships and Vessels under your Command, which I have not the least doubt is made in the manner most advantageous to His Majesty's Service.

In regard to the payment of the Pilots with certainly ought not to be delay'd in their distress'd situation, I see no method so likely to answer as for you to draw on the Storekeeper at New York, writing to him at the same time that you have my Orders so to do. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Gayton

To Vice Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot

Sandwich off Sandy Hook 15th Nov^r 1780

Sir

Inclosed I send you a list of the Frigates to whom I had given Orders and their Station, as likewise a letter

received from Captain Gayton with the State and Condition of the Ship under him, and a Letter from the Navy Board with the Bill of Lading of the Stores put on board the Aid Transport & am Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble servant

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Arbuthnot

From Commodore William Hotham

Ajax, Carenage St: Lucia 29th Nov^r 1780

Sir,

By the Greyhound which arrived here this day, I was honor'd with your Letter of the 31st of October and from your Private One that came at the same time containing Intelligence of a Convoy loading in the Delaware and being intended for Martinique, I shall dispatch the Alfred and Monarch that join'd me the 27th and are now compleating their Water in the Cul de Sac to Cruize for them between Dominico and Martinique (the Passage all their Ships now take) in the hope of intercepting them, and these Ships being join'd by the Convert which is already upon that Station will I hope stand a good Chance to fall in with them, and will be safe from Mons^r De la Touche Treville whose last Destination appears to be America.

I herewith transmit against your arrival at Barbadoes the Originals of all the Dispatches I have received from England since your Departure, of which I shall Keep the Duplicates and Triplicates until I have the honor to hear of your being there.

I send also Copies of my Correspondence with Mr. Laforey as well as of my Letters to the Admiralty for your Information and I hope my having dispatched the Brune to England will meet with your Approbation.

It is with much Concern that I cannot give you any more favourable account of the Missing Ships.

I have the honor to be &ca.

WM HOTHAM

Admiral Sir: G. B. Rodney Bart: &ca.

From Commodore William Hotham

Ajax, Carenage, St: Lucia 30th Nov^r 1780
Sir,

Since my Letter of Yesterday which was intended to be sent by the Greyhound, there appear'd this morning and have been plying off and on all day, four Line of Battle Ships of the Enemy, two Frigates, a smaller one resembling the Fortune and a Schooner. I am under no apprehension of Mischief to the Island from these Ships as unless they were to come out in greater force, the Vigie I hope would be secure on One Side from that part of the Squadron in the Carenage, Viz: the Ajax, Vigilant and Montagu, as well as the Morne Fortunée by the Alfred and Monarch that defend the Cul de Sac.

Was the Ajax in a fitter state for Sea than what she is, I should neither think myself justified in Compliance with the Spirit of my Orders, or in point of Prudence to leave the Island Open to an Attack by quitting this Post to offer them Battle, being uncertain of what further force they may have in Fort Royal, added to the Prospect of being so soon join'd by you, until when I shall remain where I am, and I hope you will approve of my having stopp'd any ship that may arrive singly or in small force at Barbadoes.

The Numerous Public and Private Letters together with the necessary papers intended to have been forwarded as mention'd in my Letter yesterday, are now retained, thinking this too uncertain a conveyance to trust them by. I have the honor to be &ca.

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

WM HOTHAM

P S: I am just inform'd by the Antigua Brig who looked into Fort Royal Bay yesterday, that he saw lying there a Two Deck'd Ship with a Flag at the Main Top-mast head and a Frigate by which I am inclin'd to think these Ships may not have yet been in Port, as they were at that time to Leeward of him.

From Commodore William Hotham

Ajax, Carenage St: Lucia 2nd Dec^r 1780

Sir

I sent a Schooner two days ago to Barbadoes with the Originals of the Inclosed Letters, and I have now thought it proper to send out the Greyhound with the Sylph Sloop to make such Observations as they can of the motions and Course of the Enemy which are now to Windward of St: Lucia; The most accurate account made of this Squadron is One Ship of 80, One of 74, two of 60 and two Frigates of 40 Guns each with the Fortune Sloop and a Schooner, and I refer you to Captain Fooks for farther Intelligence.

The Duplicates of such of the Admiralty Letters as I have the Originals of, are herewith transmitted, but I do not think it safe to send the rest, or your Private Letters, conceiving them safe in my hands at this juncture. The Copies of my Correspondence with Mr: Laforey and the Admiralty together with the Accounts of the several Occurrences that have happen'd since your departure are also kept here for the same reason.

I have the honor to be &ca.

W^M HOTHAM

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart: &ca.

*To Captain John Laforey, Navy Commissioner at the
Leeward Islands*

Sandwich at Sea 3rd Dec^r 1780

Sir

The Boreas having sprung her Main Mast and other damages in a Gale of Wind which happen'd on the 17th of last Month immediately on our leaving the Hook, I have thought it necessary to send her directly to English

Harbour, in order to her having a new one got in and her being properly refitted, which you will please to Order to be effected as expeditiously as possible and for her to remain there till further Orders from me.

You will likewise please to loose no time in dispatching a Frigate to me at Barbadoes, and to acquaint me there with the Occurrences that have happen'd since my leaving Antigua as also to have the Fire Ships and Bombs in Constant readiness to join me whenever His Majesty's Service may make it necessary, so for me to send them Orders for that purpose.

I am with real regard Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &ca.

P S. As several of the Capital Ships have suffer'd considerably in the above Gale, in their Masts, Yards and Sails particularly the Triumph a Foretopsail yard, the Torbay a Foretopmast gone (besides another Ship her Mizen Mast gone name unknown) You will be pleased to get things as much in readiness as possible for their refitting against their Arrival. You will likewise please to order the Boreas's Men sent in with Prizes to be return'd to her from whatever ships they may be on board.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes,
6th December 1780

Sir

Yesterday in the Evening I had the favour of your Letters of the 29th and 30th of November and of the 2nd December with the Admiralty Dispatches inclosed and send without loss of time the Alcmene and Sylph Cutter to acquaint you of my arrival with the Sandwich, Triumph, Terrible, Intrepid and Cyclops, and this morning Commodore Sir Chal^r Ogle and Drake are arrived

with the Resolution, Russel, Alcide, and Centaur, most of us shall sail either this Evening or tomorrow morning to join you at St: Lucia.

It gives me the sincerest pleasure to hear you have enjoy'd your hea[l]th during the very sickly Season, and considering the Great Fatigue and Anxiety you must have under gone, to find you in perfect health on my arrival at St: Lucia will give the greatest satisfaction to him who has the honor to be, My Dear Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Hotham &ca.

P S. Several of my Squadron have suffered very much in the late Gale of Wind that took us the very Night after we left Sandy Hook, and I fear some of the Frigates have perished. The Torbay and Shrewsbury are missing.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes
7th Dec^r 1780

Sir

I must desire you will please to get under way with the four Line of Battle Ships under your Command immediately as you receive this, and Cruize off Ance Darlet [*sic for Anse d'Arlet*] in order to intercept the French Men of War said to be Cruizing off Martinique from getting into Fort Royal which they will probably push for on the discovering the Squadron under my Command. I am &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Commodore Hotham

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sandwich 7th Dec^r 1780

Sir

I must desire you will not loose a moments time in joining me at Gross Islet Bay St: Lucia. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Sir: Chal^r Ogle

A Letter dated 7th Dec^r 1780, to Sir Chal^r Ogle acquainting him that the Rendezvous for ships arriving from England &ca. is at Gross Islet Bay St: Lucia, and to leave it at his departure with the Collector of the Customs, should there be no Ships of War in the Bay.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes
7th Dec^r 1780

Sir,

As I think it necessary the Embargo at the Island of Barbadoes should still continue, I must desire the favour of your Excellency not to take it off till I do myself the honor of sending to you from St: Lucia.

I have the honor to be with regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To His Excellency General Cunningham
Captain General Commander in Chief
& Governor of the Island of Barbadoes

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes 7th Dec^r 1780

Sir

The Condition of His Majesty's Fleet under my Command being such as to require a very considerable supply of Seamen, and as I am well inform'd there are a great number at present secreted in the Island of Barbadoes, I must request your Excellency will be so obliging as to Consult your Council in what manner the said seamen may be procured for the Public Service. As I should be extremely unwilling to Impress them without the Assistance of the Civil Power, which assistance has never yet been refused me; I flatter myself there is not a Man in the Island of Barbadoes who will not lend a helping hand towards the manning of that Fleet which is Employed not only for the Protection of their Property, but likewise to put it out of the Power of the Public Enemy to annoy it.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

His Excellency General Cunningham

P S. The Civil Officer who may be employ'd on this service will be allow'd 40 shillings for every seaman besides the expence of bringing them to Bridge Town.

From Captain Charles Thompson

Alcide, December 7th, 1780

Sir,

My health has been such for this fortnight past oweing to a violent sore throat which nearly deprived me of speech that I am not at present capable of performing my Duty and the Surgeon of the Ship informs me it will

be necessary for me to go on shore for some time for the recovery of my health, which it will be impossible to re-establish if I remain on board.

I am therefore to request you will please to permit me to go on shore for that purpose and as it will be necessary to appoint some Person to the Alcide in the mean time, shall be much Obliged to you to name Captain Pender for that service provided it does not interfere with any determination you may have made on that head as he is a particular Friend. The Condition of the Alcide for want of Caulking is very bad we cannot wash the Lower Deck the seems are so open over the Bread Room, Sail Room and Store Rooms, while we wash the Main Deck the people cannot lay in their Hammocks the sides and every other part in the same Condition, under the Counter when at sea it runs in streams into the Bread room, if you should think proper to suffer the Ship to remain at Barbadoes, I imagine Caulkers and Rigging for the Foretopmast may be procured which is every thing we shall want to put the ship in a Condition for Sea, except a Fore Yard, and I should imagine in the present state of Affairs she may be sooner refitted at Barbadoes than at any place. Should I be so fortunate to have my Opinion coincide with yours shall be very much obliged to you to Comply with my requests. I have the honor to be &c.

C: THOMPSON

Sir: G. B. Rodney Bart:

To Captain Charles Thompson

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes
7th Dec^r 1780

Sir

I have received your Letter of this date requesting to go on shore for the recovery of your health which you have my leave! I am very sorry for the Occasion.

Previous to the receipt of your Letter I had settled it for Captain Iggalden of the *Ætna* Bomb to Command the Alcide should your health require your stay on shore which from the Account I heard of it, I was apprehensive would be necessary. She is wanted for immediate service and must sail with the Fleet when the signal will be made this Afternoon for that purpose. I am &ca.

G. B: RODNEY

Captain Thompson
Alcide

From Dr. John Crawford

Barbadoes, Dec^r 7th 1780

Sir

There are now One Hundred and fifty five Men in the ruins of the Hospital they are without covering or the smallest shelter from the inclemency of the Weather. The Consequence of so calamitous a situation must be a great fatality amongst them. As I understand Tents cannot be otherwise procured, I must beg leave to inform you that Huts may be erected here, fit for the purpose; Your Orders in this particular shall be immediately executed by Sir &ca.

JOHN CRAWFORD
Surgeon, and Agent for Sick
and Wounded Seamen &ca:

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

*From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Pilgrim [House, Barbados] 7th December 1780

Sir

The bearer of this Letter to your Excellency Mr: Morris is the Person who has heitherto been Perveyor

for the Prisoners of War; and who has from the bad health, and the inability of the Commissary conducted the Business and I may venture to affirm that without his assistance it could not have gone on. I therefore must recommend him to your Excellency as a Man of business and most able to explain the manner of Conducting that Business since your Excellency's departure from this Island.

Since my arrival a Flag of Truce arrived here from the Governor of Bayanne [*sic* for Cayenne] on board of which I put 76 Prisoners the Quarter Part of them sick, and sent them on board that Flag of Truce to Grenada.

The Marquis De Boullie sent a Flag of Truce here lately with few Prisoners and some Gentlemen of Grenada by the return of that Vessel I sent all Sick and Wounded since the late Hurricane to the amount of 85.

The Flag of Truce now in the Harbour your Excellency will be pleased to determine how she is to be disposed of.

I must take this opportunity of recommending it to your Excellency when you ease this Island of the Prisoners now here, that you will consider that our Prisons being open it will be impossible for us to Guard Prisoners of War in this Island, I therefore hope that they be sent to the other Islands.

The Governor of Grenada was directed by the Marquis de Bouille in a Letter inclosed to me to convey to him by a Flag of Truce, to return the Crew of the Savage [*sic* for *Rover*, Capt. Henry Savage] that Letter at present is mislaid, but I shall search for it and send it to you.

As to any particulars you may wish to know upon the Subject of Prisoners of War, I must refer you to Mr. Morris who I have furnished with the necessary papers for your information.

The Captain of a Ship from Nova Scotia of the Name of Wilson has been pressed and is now on board the Alcmene lately Brune. The person in question being released and this instant come to me it becomes unnecessary, to trouble your Excellency upon the subject.

The Spanish Launch that has been Condemn'd I pro-

pose fitting up as a Vessel for the King's use to send expresses &ca. I shall therefore beg the favour of your Excellency, to give directions that we may be assisted with some Carpenters from the Navy to fit her up.

I have the honor to be &ca.

JAS CUNNINGHAM

Sir G: B: Rodney Bart: &ca.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich 7th Dec^r 1780

Sir,

I am this instant honor'd with your Excellency's Letter of this date by Mr. Morris, and am perfectly of your Excellency's Opinion that in the situation the Island is in at present it is utterly unfit for the reception of Prisoners of War, but as I have order'd those belonging to the French to be sent as expediteously as possible to Old France, the Spanish to Port Rice [*sic* for Porto Rico] and the Americans to be sent immediately on board the *Russel* to be carried to St: Lucia, it will not be necessary at present for the Commissary either to find or provide for that purpose.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To His Excellency General Cunningham &ca.

From Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Admiralty Office 8th Dec^r 1781

Sir

The Committe[e] of the West India Merchants having desired that the Convoys from the Leeward Islands

for England in the ensuing year, may be appointed to Sail on the 30th of April, 15th June, and 1st of August, I am Commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their directions to you to appoint the Convoys to sail at those periods accordingly. I am &ca.

PHIL STEPHENS

To Admiral Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty*¹

By the Anna Theresa Pacquet

Sandwich Gros Ilet Bay, St. Lucia
10th December 1780

Sir

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships that I sailed from Sandy Hook on the 16th November (with His Majesty's Ships as mention'd in the Margin)² for the West Indies.

The Trade for Great Britain under Convoy of the Yarmouth, and the detachment of Troops and the Trade for the Carolinas under the protection of the Roebuck, Raleigh and Hyæna sailed the same time.

The next day a Violent Gale of Wind which continued for forty Eight hours, dispersed the whole, and I greatly fear has occasion'd very great damage to many of His Majesty's Ships, some of which, particularly the Shark, of Twenty Guns, Commanded by Captain Lloyd late of the Fowey, (which ship was the Hannibal taken from the Rebels) I have reason to think founder'd at sea.

Every Ship was seperated from the Sandwich 'till the 30th of November, when she was joined under the Tropic

¹ Printed in Mundy's *Life*, I, 447-455.

² Sandwich, Resolution, Triumph, Terrible, Alcide, Torbay, Shrewsbury, Intrepid, Cyclops, Boreas, Triton, Shark, Pacahunta, St. Lucia Brig, Lizard, Schooner.

by the *Triumph*, *Intrepid* and *Boreas*, the latter of which had sprung her Main Mast in so dangerous a Manner, as obliged me, when we arrived in the Latitude of Antigua on the 3rd of December, to detach her to that Island for a New One.

On the 6th Instant I arrived at Barbadoes where I found riding His Majesty's Ships *Terrible*, *Alcmene*, *Cyclops* and *Sylph Sloop* and was join'd the same day by the *Greyhound* and *Hornet* from St: Lucia and the day following by the *Resolution* and *Alcide* (part of the Squadron which sailed with me from Sandy Hook) and the *Russel* and *Centaur*, detached to me from Vice Admiral *Arbuthnot*: The two former Ships had suffer'd greatly in the storm the *Resolution* lost her topmasts and Main Yard, the *Alcide* her Top Masts and Fore Yard, the *Torbay* and *Shrewsbury*, who have not yet join'd me, were seen in the Gale with their Topmasts gone, and what makes this distress the greater no Naval Stores are to be got either at Barbadoes or St: Lucia owing to the dire effects of the Hurricane which happen'd on the 10th of October.

It is impossible to express the Dreadful scene it has Occasion'd at Barbadoes and the Condition of the miserable Inhabitants; nothing but ocular demonstration could have convinced me it was possible for Wind to have caused so total a destruction of an Island remarkable for its numerous and well built Habitations; And I am convinc'd that the Violence of the Wind must have prevented the Inhabitants from feeling the Earthquake which certainly attended the Storm. Nothing but an Earthquake could have occasion'd the foundations of the Strongest buildings to be rent, and so total has been the devastation that not one house or one Church, as I am well inform'd but what has been destroy'd. The whole Face of the Country appears an entire ruin, and the most Beautiful Island in the World has the appearance of a Country laid waste by Fire, and Sword, and appears to the Imagination more Dreadful than it is possible for me to find Words to express.

Such, Sir, is the Condition of the once flourishing Island of Barbadoes, every thing in my power towards the Releif of the Inhabitants their Lordships may be assured I shall assist them in, and shall dispatch expresses to America to request that Vessels loaded with Lumber may be sent in order to restore the Buildings of this unhappy Island, and skreen the surviving Inhabitants from the Inclemency of the Climate.

Not one single Battery in the whole Island but what has been totally destroy'd, and such effect had the Violence of the Wind and Sea even upon the Cannon, that if I was to report the Great Distance some of them were carried from the Batteries, few People would give Credit to the Assertion.

I leave their Lordships to judge how much my Concern must have been heighten'd upon the report being made to me of the loss His Majesty and the Public have sustain'd, in the loss of the Ships of War and the Gallant Officers and Men belonging to them, A List¹ of which I have the honor to Inclose, but I hope some of them have escaped, and arrived at Jamaica, to which Island I shall dispatch an Express, acquainting Sir Peter Parker with the great disaster that has happen'd, and request, and demand his Assistance in not only hastening such Ships of my Squadron as may have escaped the Hurricane and arrived at Jamaica to rejoin me with all possible dispatch, but likewise he will reinforce me without loss of time with the Thunderer and Berwick in persuance of the Orders he received by Commodore Walsingham, and in persuance of His Majesty's Pleasure, signified to my Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, by his Principal Secretary of State;² and such other ships as he can possibly spare from the Jamaica Station, which Island

¹ This list was not copied into the letter-book; it may be found in William L. Clowes's *The Royal Navy*, III, 479, note. The losses sustained by Commodore Hotham's squadron are printed in Mundy's *Life of Admiral Lord Rodney*, II, 451, note, as a footnote to this letter.

² [Marginal note:] N. B: Even the Kings Commands were disobey'd.

cannot be in the least danger while I have the Honor to Command His Majesty's Fleet on the Windward Station, as I have already convinced the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica, of my willingness (agreeable to my Duty) to support it when in danger.

I shall likewise acquaint Sir Peter Parker of the Crippled Condition not only of great part of the Squadron I brought with me from America, but also of those I left under Commodore Hotham who escaped the Hurricane, but remain unserviceable till Masts and Rigging can be procured to refit them, and that no Stores for that purpose are procurable in the Caribbee Islands. I shall point out to him the necessity of his sending me a large Reinforcement of Ships, and hope Sir Peter Parker will be convinced, from my representations of the Critical Situation of Affairs in this part of the World, that it is his duty without a Moments delay to hasten the Reinforcement I shall demand, more especially as I shall acquaint him of the Great Force the Enemy Daily expects from Brest under Mons^r De la Touche, the Squadron from Cape Francois under Mons^r Montrial (four of which are already arrived at Martinique) exclusive of Mons^r Ternay's Squadron from America and a strong Reinforcement of Line of Battle Ships, which the French expect from Cadiz, as I am credibly inform'd by Letters in a French Merchant Ship from Spain, taken by one of my Squadron, and by whom I learn that Mons^r De Guichen with Eighteen Sail of the Line was arriv'd at Cadiz from Cape Francois.

From all these Considerations, I hope Sir Peter Parker will not hesitate one Moment at the part he ought to take, but from his not returning the Frigates I sent to Jamaica particularly the Alert Brig, by whom I earnestly requested him to make me acquainted with the situation of Affairs on His Station, but I have never as yet received any Information whatever from him, during my Continuance on the Coast of America, or thro' the hands of Commodore Hotham with whom I left the Command at the Windward Islands during my absence, which gives

me reason to think that it may require their Lordships strictest Commands to Sir Peter Parker or the Commanding Officer for the time being at Jamaica, that my request for a Reinforcement from that Station may be complied with.

You will please to acquaint their Lordships that till the arrival of Sir Samuel Hood with the Store Ships from England, the Resolution, Montagu, Ajax, Shrewsbury and Alcide, all of 74 Guns, cannot be refitted for want of Masts and Stores. The Torbay who has not yet join'd me, I am convinced will be in the same Condition, but every thing in my Power shall be done towards so desirable an End.

I have order'd the Pacquet to sail without a moments loss of time, that their Lordships may be acquainted as soon as possible with the situation of Affairs in this part of the World, and shall send an Express in a few Days by one of the Men of War Sloops who have escaped the Hurricane with every future Intelligence I may obtain.

Inclosed I send the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command and have the honor to be with regard Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
11th December 1780

Sir

I must desire you will be so obliging as to acquaint me whether you received any dispatches from Sir Peter Parker Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica during my absence from this station.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Hotham

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich Gross Islet Bay St. Lucia
11th Dec^r 1780

Sir

As I find the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ship Ajax is such as to render her unfit to go on immediate service, I am to desire that you will remove yourself with your suit into any of His Majesty's ships named in the Margin.¹

When you have determin'd on the Ship you intend to go on board of you will acquaint me therewith that I may give the necessary Orders for your reception. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Hotham

From Commodore William Hotham

Ajax, Gross Islet Bay St. Lucia

Sir

I have received the honor of your Letter, and beg to acquaint you that I am ready to remove myself into the Centaur so soon as Orders are given for my reception. I have the honor to be &ca.

WILL^M HOTHAM

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

Commander in Chief &ca.

From Captain John Neale Pleydell Nott

Centaur Gross Islet Bay St: Lucia
11th December 1780

Sir

I beg leave to represent to you, that John Williams, Corporal of Marines belonging to His Majesty's Ship

¹ Triumph, Centaur, Alcide.

Centaur under my Command, left his duty at the Tent in Long Island, on or about the 28th of last September, therefore I am to request you will please to order a Court Martial on the said John Williams.

I have the honor to be &ca.

JN^O N: P: NOTT

Sir: G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

A Letter from Captain Bayne, Alfred, requesting a survey on the remains of Carpenters stores, Dated 12th December 1780

A Letter from Captain Bayne, Alfred, requesting a fresh Supply of Medicines dated 12th December 1780.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

By the Anna Theresa Pacquet

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay 12th Dec^r 1780

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that on my arrival at this Island, I received all their Lordships Orders and your Letters which have been transmitted to me from the 10th of July to the 20th of October and must desire that you will please to inform their Lordships that [not]-withstanding the reduced state of His Majesty's Ships and the Troops on this Station, General Vaughan and myself are determined to undertake an Enterprize which we flatter ourselves will be attended with success an Account of which I hope I shall send to their Lordships in a few days. Four Sail of the Enemy's Line of Battle Ships, from the Squadron at St: Domingo are in these

Seas, I shall do my best endeavours to take or destroy them before the very great Force the Enemy hourly expects arrives.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

P S: I shall sail tomorrow morning on the Enterprize.

To the Navy Board

Sandwich Gross Islet Bay St. Lucia
12th December 1780

Gentlemen,

In my Letter of the 13th of November from Sandy Hook by the Yarmouth, I inform'd you that I should sail the moment the Wind would permit and I have to acquaint you that I left that place with His Majesty's Ships and Vessels named in the Margin ¹ the day following and that I arrived at Barbadoes on the 5th of this Month with the Triumph and Intrepid which Ships I fell in again with (together with the Boreas) on the 30th of November in the Latitude 23 after having had the whole Squadron seperated from me in a Storm which came on the Evening of the Day we left the Hook and continued with great Violence for 48 hours and in which I am sorry to inform you many of the Ships have suffer'd very severely in their Masts Yards, Sails and Rigging, they have since at different times all join'd me except the Torbay, Pachaunta, Shark and St: Lucia Brig, for the two last of which I am under very serious Apprehensions indeed it is almost certain that the Shark has founde'r'd. She was a very fine 20 Gun Ship Commanded

¹ Sandwich, Resolution, Triumph, Terrible, Alcide, Torbay, Shrewsbury, Intrepid, Cyclops, Boreas, Triton, Shark, Pachaunta, St: Lucia, Brig, Lizard, Schooner.

by Captain Lloyd late of the Fowey, and Captur'd from the Rebels in whose service she was call'd the Hannibal.

I directed the Boreas on our getting into the Latitude of Antigua to English Harbour to get a New Main Mast, and other considerable Damages she received repair'd, but from whence, after the great Demands which the late dreadful Hurricane has occasion'd the Ships remaining on this Station under Commodore Hotham to make, I am apprehensive our supply will be very defective in the most essential Articles indeed in Stores of all kinds, especially as nothing is to be got from the desolated Island of Barbadoes no more than this.

I am in daily expectations of the Torbay arriving as she was seen, tho' without her Main top Mast after the height of the Gale as was also the Pachaunta Sloop.

I should inform you likewise that the Russel Commodore Drake and the Centaur Captain Nott which Ships I had Order'd together with the Culloden to assist Admiral Arbuthnot in the blockade of Rhode Island (from whence they were detached about the same time I sailed) arrived at Barbadoes the day following my arrival, the Culloden being left there in the place of the Resolution.

Happy should I be were there resources in this Country to be found for the thorough Refitment of the Ships above mention'd in their Masts, Sails, yards and Rigging, but as that is not the case, I am under the necessity of making a Representation how much these important Articles are wanted here, which I am sure the Zeal and Activity that Animates the members of His Majesty's Navy Board will make them use every exertion to send out as early and as adequate a supply of as possible, till the arrival of which the Refitment of the Resolution, Alcide, Shrewsbury (and I fear the Torbay) from America, and the Montagu and Ajax dismasted in the Hurricane cannot be compleated, Tho' every exertion is my power they may depend on being used for that purpose as well as that I shall give the most possitive Direc-

tions for the Stores being husband'd in the most frugal and Careful manner.

I have the honor to be with great regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's
Navy

From the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

Office for Sick and Hurt Seamen
the 30th June 1780

Sir,

Agreeable to what was mention'd in our Letter of the 17th March last we herewith Inclose a Set of Instructions for the Guidance of such Person as may be appointed to be Surgeon to His Majesty's Sick and Wounded Seamen on the Island of Barbadoes. And are with best wishes for your health and further successes Sir &ca.

J: BELL

WAL^R FARQAHSON [*sic* for Farquharson]

VINC^T CORBETT

ROB^T LULMAN

Adm^l Sir. G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

Sandwich, Gross Islet Bay St: Lucia
12th Decem^r 1780

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acquaint you that on my arrival at this place from the Coast of North America I received your Letter [of June 30] with the Instructions for the Surgeon and Agent for the Sick and Wounded Seamen at Barbadoes, which I shall transmit the first Opportunity. Sorry

I am to inform you that the Hospital there as well as at this Island is totally demolish[ed] by the late Hurricane. I gave directions while I was at Barbadoes for such Temporary Hutts to be erected as the deplorable state of the Patients that are or must be sent there renders absolutely necessary on the best terms the same can possibly be effected, and have likewise given Orders for necessary Buildings for the same purpose being erected at Pidgeon Island in this Bay where a proper place for the reception of the Sick and Wounded is become more than ever immediately and absolutely necessary.

I am with great regard Gentlemen &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commiss^{rs} for Sick and Wounded

From Captain the Honorable John Rodney

Antigua, December 14th 1780

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you of my arrival the Day after I parted Company in English Harbour, the Mast is very bad but as there is not a stick here fit to make a Mast for the Ship shall be obliged to take the same in again, the Commissioner says he will order us to be refitted for the present, we can do but little to her as there are ships alongside the Wharf. Captain Bowen can inform you what hurry they are in at this Harbour. I have the honor to be, with the greatest Respect,

Your most Devoted most Obedient and most humble
servant

JOHN RODNEY

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Major General the Honorable John Vaughan

Sandwich Warrawarow Bay St: Vincents
17th December 1780

The Admiral's Compliments to General Vaughan and sends him the enclosed information which he had from an Inhabitant last Night, the Enemy are too well prepared for a Coup de Main, having received Intelligence from the traiterous Inhabitants of St: Lucia, and a supply of Powder from Martinique.

Ever since they received the Intelligence from St: Lucia they have had a great number of Negroes at work upon the fortifications upon the Mountain which fortification the Admiral has been informed has a ditch round it. if the General is of Opinion that an Attack would not answer the intended purpose all the Boats at Day light shall be ready to receive the Troops.

G: B: RODNEY

General Vaughan

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

By the Surprize

Sandwich, off St: Lucia 18th Dec^r 1780

Sir

On my arrival at Barbadoes on the 5th Inst. you may easily Judge of my surprize and Astonishment at finding that once beautiful Island which was always thought to be out of the reach of Hurricanes, to be one intire ruin, not one Church, and scarce one House but what experienced the dreadful effect of the Hurricane that happen'd there on the 10th of October upwards of Six Thousand Inhabitants perished.

But what added greatly to this Calamity was my being made acquainted with the loss His Majesty and the

Public had sustain'd in Eight Ships of War with the Gallant Officers and Men belonging to them, and the great damage of the remainder of the Squadron I had left under the Command of Commodore Hotham in these Seas, all of whom were dismasted and render'd useless as neither Masts or Rigging are in the Stores, or any to be purchased.

I have not a doubt, if any of the Ships should have been so lucky to have escaped the Hurricane and are arrived at Jamaica, but you will refit them and hasten them back to this station with all possible dispatch, where their service will be much wanted, and where the Enemy's Squadron, which is hourly expected in these Seas, will be very superior to that under my Command, that unless you reinforce it¹ with the Thunderer and Berwick, agreeable to His Majesty's Commands signified by His Principal Secretary of State to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and which Command the Admiralty acquainted me they had directed you to Comply with, by sending the said Ships to be put under my Command, and which I expected would have join'd me on my return to this Station, But must own, I was greatly disappointed in not finding them here.

I have acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty with the situation of Affairs, and the absolute necessity of a strong Reinforcement being sent to support the Honor of His Majesty's Flag and His Territories in these Seas, which will be in imminent Danger unless a St[r]ong Reinforcement be speedily sent me from Jamaica or Great Britain.

I have likewise acquainted them that I should send an Express to you, to desire every assistance in your Power and in particular the return of the Thunderer and Berwick as likewise whatever Line of Battle Ships could possibly be spared to join me as Jamaica could not be in danger while I commanded a strong Squadron to

¹ [Marginal note:] N B: Not one Ship was ever sent from Jamaica.

Windward, as I should ever be ready to support it with my whole Strength should there be occasion and as I had already given a Proof of my readiness to assist it when in danger.

I must therefore Sir, in His Majesty's Name and for His Service, request that you assist me in supporting the Dignity of His Flag and in protecting His Islands in these Seas with what force you can possibly spare, and without loss of time, as I have but Nine Sail of the Line fit for Service and those without Stores.

I must likewise desire you will dispatch my Frigate the Alert, which I sent express to you, on which I had reason to expect would have been return'd to me agreeable to my request, that I might have been perfectly acquainted with the Situation of Affairs on your Station and (if occasion) have dispatched an additional Succour to reinforce you.

I am convinced there must have been some reason that I am unacquainted with, which prevented your sending back the Alert as I cannot be induced to believe you would have detain'd one of my Frigates sent express to you (and whose Captain I should have preferr'd) without something extraordinary and therefore flatter myself that I shall soon have the Honor of hearing from you or her, or some other fast sailing Frigates, that I may know what Succour I may depend upon and expect from you.

The Surprize that I send with this Express having sprung her Main Mast and there being no Stores whatever here to refit her I must desire you will please to order her to be careen'd and refitted at Jamaica.

Inclosed I send you authentic Intelligence the first and second from the Admiralty, the other from intercepted Letters and that part of the St: Domingo Squadron are already arrived at Martinique and the others hourly expected.

I have the honor to be with great regard &c.

G: B: RODNEY

Sir Peter Parker &c.

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sir

Sandwich at Sea 18th Dec^r 1780

I must inform you that we arrived with the Squadron and the Troops in Warrawarow Bay on the 16th Inst. the landing was made good and the General with the Troops advanc'd to the Mountain on which the Enemy had made their principal Fortification, but so far from finding it in a ruinous State, as we were made to believe it was in perfect repair, and so well supply'd with Troops, Cannon, and Amunition that an attack upon it was impracticable, and if made must have ended in the destruction of the Troops. We therefore reimbarcked them Yesterday morning and though the Enemy from their Mountain diverted themselves by Cannonading and Bombarding the Ships, no damage ensued.

I am now upon my way to Join you at Gros Islet Bay, and must desire you will order the Torbay or any other Ship that may be ready to join me upon my Approach and when in sight of St: Lucia, as I have information the Enemy have a Squadron of 10 Sail of the Line in these Seas. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Sir Chal^r Ogle

*From Captain Griffiths, of the Marines, to Captain
John N. P. Nott*

Sir

Centaur December 18th 1780

Whereas John Pugh, private Marine, has been guilty of Drunk[en]ness, Neglect of Duty, and disobedience of Orders, on the Troops immediately landing on the Island of St: Vincents, I therefore request that you will do me the Honor of applying to the Commander in Chief, for a Court Martial to be held, to try him for the same. I am &ca.

J: GRIFFITHS

To Captain Nott

Captain of Marines

From Captain John Neale Pleydell Nott

Centaur at Sea December 18th 1780

Sir

Captain Griffiths of the Marines, having sent me the Inclosed Letter of Complaint against John Pugh Marine for Drunkness, Neglect of Duty and Disobedience of Orders on the Troops immediately landing on the Island of St: Vincents and requesting a Court Martial to try him for the same, I am therefore to beg you will please to order a Court Martial on the said John Pugh accordingly.

I have the honor to be &ca.

JN^O N: P: NOTT

Sir G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sandwich 22nd December 1780

Sir:

The Situation of His Majesty's Affairs in this Part of the World requiring your speedy Ju[n]ction with me at St: Lucia, I have not a Doubt but upon the Receipt of this Letter you will join me with all possible Dispatch and bring with you all Store Ships and Victualers, notwithstanding their having been order'd to any other part of the World, Half of the Squadron at least under my Command being rendered unserviceable for want of Masts and Stores.

I must desire likewise you will bring the Jamaica Trade (if any) with you to St: Lucia, as I will take care to send

a proper Convoy with them to that Island. I am with regard Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood, Bart:
or other Commander of His Majesty's Ships
expected from Great Britain

[Marginal note:] This Letter sent to meet Sir: Samuel Hood when arrived at Barbadoes.

From Captain Philip Affleck

Triumph Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
22nd Dec^r 1780

Sir

I beg you will please to order a survey on the Main Mast and Fore Yard of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, they being both so badly sprung as to render them useless. I am Sir &ca.

P: AFFLECK

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Captain Philip Affleck

Triumph December 22nd 1780

Sir

Having taken a Schooner from Martinique in our Passage but from the Condition of the Triumphs Main Mast and Fore Yard not having had an Opportunity to join you, thinking it my Duty to take every advantage of the Wind to get to Windward, I send an Officer with one of the Passengers to wait on you to give such Information as may be collected.

I am getting a Description of the unhappy Negroes I have on board and shall be happy to have them out of the ship as soon as possible.

I must beg Sir that you will favour me with your Orders by the Officer and excuse my not having waited on you in Person. I have the honor to be &ca.

P: AFFLECK

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Captain Philip Affleck

Sandwich 22nd December 1780

Sir

I have received the favour of your Letter of this date, and intend to send a Flag of Truce to Martinique in a Day or Two in which the People belonging to the Schooner you took may be sent. If the Vessel is thought proper for Wooding and Watering the Fleet she shall be purchased for that purpose. As for the unhappy Negroes you will please to Order them to be landed at the Carenage. Brigadier General St: Leger will appoint proper Persons to receive them. You will please to give Directions that each has a Days Provisions.

We must do our best endeavours to put your Mast in proper Order.

I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Captain Affleck
Triumph

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Rear Admiral
Francis S. Drake*

Sandwich, 23rd Dec^r 1780

Sir

I am directed by the Admiral to acquaint you that it is his Directions you cause Three of the Carpenters belonging to His Majesty's Squadron under your Command

to survey the Bottom of His Majesty's Ship Russel and Report to him from under their hands their Opinions thereof.

I have the honor to be with great regard Sir &ca.

WM PAGETT

Commodore Drake &ca.

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sandwich St: Lucia 23rd December 1780

Sir

I have been favour'd with your Letter of Yesterdays date. I must desire you will please to give immediate Orders that all the seamen and Marines who were lent to other Ships be return'd to their respective Ships, to which they belong.

You will please to give Directions that such Ships of the Squadron that sailed with me, compleat their Water and Provisions with all possible Dispatch.

I order'd last Night the Alfred and Triton to endeavour to intercept the French Frigate, that was Cruizing off the North End of the Island.

The Man that belonged to Pidgeon Island and lies in Gros Islet was the Person I contracted with to build the Hutts for the Sick.

I must desire the Torbay may remain in Gros Islet Bay, till further Orders, and that the Sylph Sloop and Lizard Schooner attend me, the ships that want Water should be order'd to Choque Bay or Cul de Sac which ever is most convenient. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Sir: Chal^r Ogle &ca.

P:S: You will please to order such Negroes brought in the Squadron from St: Vincents to be restor'd to their Owners on Demand and the Residue to be sent to the Commanding Officer at the Carenage for his Disposal.

But should there be any Artificers among them that may be usefully employed at Pidgeon Island unclaim'd you are to detain for that purpose.

From Robert Scott, Agent for Prisoners of War at Barbados

Agents Office, Barbadoes 23rd Dec^r 1780

Sir:

Having in obedience to your Commands signified to me by your Secretary's Letter of the 7th Instant, made diligent enquiry for proper Vessels to convey the French and Spanish Prisoners from this Island, I have found that no other Person than Messrs: Thompson and Seed, Captain George Johnson and Captain Sam^l Dearsley could furnish Vessels to carry the Spaniards to Porto Rico: And His Excellency Gen^l Cunningham preferring the proposal of Captain Samuel Dearsley as the most reasonable, I have therefore hired his Vessel, which this Day sailed from hence to Porto Rico with all the Spanish Prisoners on board.

With regard to the French Prisoners you will please to observe by the proposals of Messrs: Thompson and Seed that they will undertake to carry them to St. Maloes and to Victual them during the passage of Five Guineas Pr. Man, which I am convinced is a much more reasonable Offer than any that will ever be made by other Persons in the Island. I have not engaged with him for the Vessel, because I am directed by you not to send the French away until I receive your further Orders, which I wish to have as soon as possible: Having promised to give Messrs: Thompson and Seed a final Answer within a Fortnight from this day. I have the honor to be &ca.

ROBERT SCOTT

Agent for Prisoners of War

Sir G. B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, off the Carenage 24th Decem^r 1780

Sir

I am honour'd with your Excellency's letter and am very glad that the Flag of Truce with the Spaniards is gone. I must beg the other may not sail, till I send a ship of War to Convey them to a proper Distance.

I believe your Excellency will agree with me that there is no further Occasion for an Embargo at Barbadoes. In a very few Days I shall have the honor of writing to you more fully, and flatter myself you will lend every Assistance in your power towards Manning the Fleet which is very short indeed.

I have the honor to be with great regard &ca.

General Cunningham &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sandwich, St: Lucia 24th December 1780

Sir:

I must desire you will please to order the Convert and every other ship to join me at Gros Islet Bay, the moment they have compleated their Water. I am &ca.

Commodore Drake &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Sandwich, St: Lucia 24th December 1780

Sir

I cannot help acquainting you how much I am surprized to find the Party of Men sent to take post at

Port L'Esperance (a Place of Importance) the whole of them Sick and unfit for Service. General Vaughan inform'd me that those Men were to be effective in order to keep possession of that Post: I am likewise to acquaint you that there are no Provisions sent with them. I have order'd them to be lodged in the Village of Gros Islet and to remain there till you please to send Orders for their further Disposal. I am with great regard Sir &c.

G: B: RODNEY

Brigadier Gen^l St. Leger &c.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
25th Decem^r 1780

Sir

I have been favour'd with your Letters of the 8th and 14th Instant with all the Papers inclosed.

The Terrible Effects of the Hurricane in October and the hard Gale of Wind my Squadron experienced on the Coast of America has so dismantled my Line of Battle Ships, that only 9 of them (exclusive of the Suffolk who I must desire you will hasten to me to Windward of the Islands) will be capable of going to Sea, till Sir Samuel Hood arrives with the Store Ships from England.

I must desire you will order the Boreas to proceed without loss of time to Barbadoes, and to be particularly cautious in his Passage in avoiding the Enemy's Three Frigates said to be Cruizing to Windward: If the Suffolk is not sailed, I leave it to your Judgement whether it will not be best for those two Ships to proceed to Barbadoes where the Suffolk can compleat her Water, and where the Boreas will receive Orders for her further proceedings.

I have sent you the Pacahunta, which I must desire you will please to employ with other Frigates which I

shall soon send you for the Protection of the Leeward Islands, and to intercept the Enemy's Ships or Vessels coming from America or going from St: Eustatia to the French Island, As likewise the raising all the Seamen they can possibly procure. General Vaughan having given directions to Gen^l Prescott to assist with the Military in apprehending the Stragglng Seamen.

I am very glad of your Intention of sending the Star Brig as a Flag of Truce to Porto Rico, it may have a very good Effect and be the means of procuring a number of Seamen as likewise of clearing the Island of the Spanish Prisoners.

I have already sent a Cartel from Barbadoes to Porto Rico with all the Spanish Prisoners which were in that Island.

As the Season is now approached for Action and as the Enemy have already 7 sail of the Line in Fort Royal Bay and hourly expect a great Fleet, it will be absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service, and for the better carrying on a Constant and almost daily correspondence, that at least four additional Schooners be hir'd exclusive of those already employ'd.

You may be assured that on the arrival of Sir Samuel Hood with the Store Ships, those Stores necessary for compleatly fitting the ships at English Harbour shall be sent. But the first and principal consideration must be the refitting the Line of Battle Ships now at St: Lucia.

As there will be an Absolute necessity that a proper Clerk belonging to the Storekeeper attends at St: Lucia in order to deliver the Stores and take the proper Vouchers, I must desire you will please to give directions to the Storekeeper to send a Clerk in the Suffolk or Boreas.

As whereas I have just reason to suppose that Mr. Tucker who is employed in procuring Stores for His Majesty's Service at Barbadoes is a most dangerous and disloyal Man and grossly imposes upon Government in the Purchasing of Stores and Contracting for Vessels, I think it my Duty to repeat this to you, and hope you will

please to give directions that some other person in that Island be employ'd for the future instead of Mr. Tucker, but I am convinced it will be more advantageous for His Majesty's service if you send a proper person from Antigua who should be Authorized by you to take charge of such Stores belonging to His Majesty as may be deposited in that Island, or might be thought necessary to be purchased there. Such a Person as Mr. *Ragget*,¹ I should think would be most proper as he is more to be depended on than any of the Barbadoes Merchants settled on the Island.

Should you think any Assistance from me is necessary in the Appointment, you will please to point it out.

I am sure you will think with me how necessary it is that the Copper bottom'd Frigates should have the preference of all other service, particularly the *Venus* and *Amazon*, which when ready ought not to be delay'd for want of Men, but should have Men lent from the *Vengeance* till others can be procured from the Leeward Islands.

I have nothing more material to say at present. I shall send another Express to you very soon. I have the honor to be with great regard, Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &ca.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia

27th Dec^r 1780

Sir

I must desire you will be so obliging to inform me what Officer it was that delivered your Dispatches to Captain Moutrie² [*sic* for Moutray] of His Majesty's Ship the

¹ [Marginal note:] Commissioner Laforey's Clerk.

² [Marginal note:] Captain Moutrie after receiving Orders to remain at Barbadoes presumed to disobey them and went to Jamaica.

Ramil[l]ies. I must likewise desire you will favour me with a Copy of your Letter or Order to him, that I may transmit the same to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to whom I have applied for a Court Martial upon Captain Moutrie. I am Sir &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Commodore Hotham &ca.

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Aretas Akers, Agent
for Prisoners of War at St. Kitts*

Sandwich 28th December 1780

Sir

I herewith transmit you by Order of the Admiral the Copy of a Letter received by the last Conveyance from the Commissioners of Sick and Hurt Seamen, relative to your Appointment as Agent for Prisoners of War, by which you will see that tho' they have not wrote to you themselves, as such you are considered by them as the only person legally appointed to that Office: And as such I am Commanded by him to Signify to you his Orders to Act, and in particular that you attend to the Directions given in said Letter relative to any agreement that may be made with Prisoners hereafter sent home in Merchant Ships.

I am likewise to acquaint you that he is determin'd to prosecute Mr. Predie for the Male Practice set forth in the said Letter as well as others that have come to his Knowledge, as far as such prosecutions are maintainable. I am Sir &ca.

WM PAGETT

Aretas Akers Esq^r

Agent for Prisoner of War

*From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sir

Barbadoes, 28th Decem^r 1780

Upon the arrival of General Vaughan in the Greyhound on the 26th Inst: I had the honor to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 7th Inst: dated Carlisle Bay: had it reached my Hands sooner your Commands about taking up Secreted Seamen should have been punctually Obey'd: That the Service should not be a Moment delay'd, upon the receipt of your Letters, I repair'd immediately to Town and gave my Sanction for taking all Seamen: I also continued the Embargo two days longer to give the Captains of the Frigates an Opportunity and I believe they succeeded: to Day I shall Issue the inclosed Proclamation and send Circular Letters to the Councillors to exert the Civil Power in taking up Seamen. I presume the Commanding Officer of the Navy here has Directions to pay the Bounty and was there a Frigate or Arm'd Vessel station'd here with a regulating Captain, I should Imagine Seamen may be got.

I am glad you approve of the Spaniards being sent to Porto Rico by your Letter of the 24th Instant. Thompson and Seed Merchants here have offer'd to carry the 400 French Prisoners to France at 5 Guineas Pr Man, supplying them with Provisions &ca. The Vessel agreeable to your Directions shall be prepared waiting for the Frigate that is to convoy her: Thompson and Seeds Vessel proposed to carry the 400 French Prisoners is of 300 Tons Burthen. Your Excellency must be the best Judge whether a Vessel of that size is fit to carry them. I have the honor to be &ca.

JA^S CUNNINGHAM

BARBADOES

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas Admiral Sir Geo^e Bridges Rodney Bart. Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's ships in these Seas

has applied to me upon Information that many Seamen are secreted in this island, and flatters himself that the Inhabitants will exert themselves to the utmost of their Power in procuring Seamen for that Fleet which is not only employ'd in the protection of their property, but likewise to prevent the Enemy from Annoying it: I publish this my Proclamation and do hereby invite the loyal Inhabitants of this Island to exert themselves for the above laudable Purpose and for their Encouragement the Admiral directs a Bounty of 40 Shillings Sterling to be given to every able Bodied Seaman and the Expences of bringing them to Bridge Town to be paid by the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships in Carlisle Bay. And I do hereby call upon all Magistrates and other Civil Officers to be Aiding and Assisting herein.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at
Pilgrim this 28th December 1780

(signed) JAS CUNNINGHAM

By his Excellency's Commands

T: Workman

Secretary

God Save the King

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel 28th December 1780

Sir

I had not Day light sufficient yesterday to look into Fort Royal Bay: this morning I did; and had a very distinct and clear View of the Enemy's Ships, consisting of Five Sail of two Deck'd Ships.

One with Yards and Topmast up and Top Gallant Yards across which I think smaller than the other Four, One with the Fore Topmast quite stript and Main Topmast down, One with her Main Mast quite stript: Two

with their Yards and Topmasts Struck: There are also Five Sail of Merchant Ships. I am of Opinion Four of the Two Deck'd Ships are of the Line, the other not unlikely to be the Experiment, for their appear'd to be no break upon her Quarter like a Poop. I saw their Lower Deck Ports very plain and endeavour'd to reckon them, but I could not do it with that exactness I could have wished as some of the Ports were down. In St. Anns Bay there is a small Ship of War, which I take to be a Frigate lying close under a Battery: I have the honor to be &ca.

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart: FRA: S: DRAKE

To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia 30th Dec^r 1780
Sir:

The implements in the inclosed list being wanted for His Majesty's Service, I am to desire you will please to order them to be sent to this Island by the first Conveyance; And if they can be spared a few Negroe Smiths: I am Sir: &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commissioner Laforey &ca.

2 Pair large Bellows	6 Pair Tongs
2 Anvils	2 Jew Irons
3 Hedges	24 Files
3 Hand Hammers	2 Spike Tools
2 Vices	

To Captain John Houlton

Sir Sandwich 30th December 1780

I must desire you will not permit any Flag of Truce to sail from the Carenage without having permission

from me for that purpose: Nor any Vessel whatever to sail from thence clear'd for any other Port than those of Great Britain or the British Islands. I am &ca.

Captain Houlton
of His Majesty's Ship Montagu

G: B: RODNEY

*To the Marquis de Bouillé, Governor-General of the
French Windward Islands*

Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia 30th Dec^r 1780

Sir,

On my arrival at Barbadoes the King my Master's Governor of that Island presented me with a Letter from your Excellency, on the receipt of which Mons^r le Comte Durat the Governor of Granada was directed to deliver the Captain, Officers, and Seamen of His Britannic Majesty's Frigate of War the Rover which Frigate had been taken by his Most Christian Majesty's Ship the Juno.

As I had not the least doubt but your Excellency's Command would have been implicitly Obey'd, I dispatch a Cartel to Granada with your Excellency's Letter but having been since inform'd that the Captain and Crew of the Rover had left that Island by your Excellency's Order, and were lately carried to Martinique: I have not a doubt but you will upon this my Application and agreeable to your Letter sent to Governor Cunningham at Barbadoes, permit Captain Savage and his Crew to be returned to this Island.

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that during my short stay in America, I released every French Officer and Prisoner of War, amounting to upwards of 500, and sent them to France in good and well prepared Ships, that they might not experience the dreadful Calamity attending Prisoners of War in that Cold, inhospitable Climate during the Winter Months.

I must repeat to your Excellency what I had the Honor of signifying to you on my first arrival in these Seas, to take upon me the Command of the King my Master's Fleet, that all Prisoners of War whatever are under my Direction: No Governor has any Right or will be permitted to interfere in that Disposal; whatever Cartels your Excellency may think it necessary to send for the benefit of both Nations during this unhappy War must be address'd to me as Admiral and Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Fleet in these Seas, no others will be permitted to proceed to any of His Majesty's Islands.

I must conclude this Letter that I have the Honor to send to your Excellency with assuring you that your humanity great as it is cannot exceed mine in showing every respect and attention to and relieving the distresses of those whom the Fortune of War has made Prisoners.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

G: B: RODNEY

His Excellency the Marquis de Bouille,
Captain General and Governor of all His Most Christian Majesty's Windward Islands &ca.

From the Marquis de Bouillé

Translation to the Answer to the Above Letter
dated at Martinique 31st December 1780

Sir

Upon the promises that Mr. Cunningham made me to send back French Prisoners at least equal in Number and Quality to those detained in our Islands, I sent him all those at Martinique and gave Orders to the Governors at Guadaloupe and Granada to send back in like manner English Prisoners to St: Christophers and Barbadoes, but the Governor of the latter after having kept the

Cartel Six Week[s] returned it without any French Prisoners, tho' he had upwards of 400 detain'd in that Colony for more than a Year, where they suffered every kind of Ills and Outrages. He has informed me it was conformable to the Orders of your Excellency.

After such a Conduct, I revoked the Orders I had given to the Governor of Granada, and I determin'd to Keep here the English Prisoners 'till an Opportunity should offer to send them to France: I only thought myself bound to deviate from this Rule, in favour of Officers remitted on their Parole, such as Mr: Savage and his Officers, *etat major*.

If at present your Excellency wishes to settle a Cartel, I propose that agreed on between our two Courts of which I join a Copy (*or set an Example*) which my Court has order'd me to propose to the English Admirals and Governors. If it is accepted and you return me the French Prisoners, I will fullfill the Conditions. If on the Contrary it is refused, I must follow the mode practised since your Excellency arrived in these Seas, to reciprocally detain them: I beg you will communicate to me your positive Answer.

As to any thing further, the approaching arrival of the Count D'Estaing who is to Command the Forces by Sea and Land will perhaps facilitate the Means to make this Treaty of Exchange, to which I cannot subscribe, If it differs from that subsisting in Europe, which he may very likely be Authorized to do.

Mr: Savage will acquaint you with the proposition for his Exchange, if you accept it be so good as to let me know.

I shall be much astonished if your Excellency did not unite to your Military Qualities, that of Humanity which ought to be inseperable from one another.

I have the Honor to be with profound respect Sir

Your Excellency's most humble and most obedient servant,

(Signed) THE MARQ^S DE BOUILLÉ
His Excellency Admiral Rodney &ca.

Translation to a Letter
dated Martinique 31st Dec^r 1780

We Authorize Mr. Savage (formerly Captain of His Britannic Majesty's Sloop the Rover) Prisoner of War who was sent on his Parole to treat with the Commander of the Naval Force of His Nation for his Exchange against Mons^r Fonteneau formerly Captain of the King of France's Sloop, the L'Ellis, Prisoner of War sent on his Parole: at least Mr. Savage is bound by this obligation to send us an Instrument, whereby the Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces, shall remit to Mr. Fonteneau the Parole which he has given not to serve till he is exchanged: For the present we give back Mr. Savage the Parole he has given us not to serve 'till he is Exchanged.

(Signed) LE MARQUIS DE BOUILLÉ

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Sandwich 31st December 1780

Sir

As I have ordered Hospitals to be erected at Pidgeon Island for the reception of the Sick: I must desire you will please to order the Implements enumerated in the Inclosed List, to be purchased and sent for that service to this Island by the first Conveyance. I am Sir &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &ca.

20 Pick Axes
12 Shovels
12 T[r]owels
31 Stone Hammers
3 Sledge D^o

To Commissioner John Laforey

Sandwich 31st December 1780

Sir

The Surf on the Beach at Choque Bay [*Anse du Choc*] particularly since the late Hurricane being so great as to occasion considerable damage to the Long Boats Employed in watering and to threaten their total Destruction if they should long continue to be employed to water there and no materials being here for refitting them: It is become absolutely necessary that Vessels should be procured for that purpose which I mean to employ in watering the Fleet from the Cul de Sac where the water is much better: I must therefore desire you will please to purchase a Couple of Strong Vessels of a Construction proper for the above use from 50 to 70 Tun and send them up here as soon as the same can be effected. I am sir with Great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &ca.

From Captain John Houlton

Montagu, in the Carenage St: Lucia
Decem^r 31st 1780

Sir

I am honor'd by yours of yesterday directing that I do not permit any Flag of Truce sailing hence without your direct Orders, or any Vessel whatever laden with the produce of this Island cleared for any other Port than those of Great Britain, or the British Islands which shall be punctually complied with by Sir

Your very humble serv^t

JOHN HOULTON

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Morne Fortuné 31st Decem^r 1780

Sir

Having before made application to you for an Arm'd Vessel: I could wish not to be troublesome to you on the present Occasion, if I thought I could answer it to the Service or myself: Inclosed I have the honor to send you a Memorandum left with me by the General to endeavour to take up the supposed Traitor: I have order'd two people to be taken up in the Windward Quarters for disobedience of Orders, which the Offenders have treated very slightly and treated the Commissaries of Quarters in the most disrespectful manner for obeying my Orders. Out of 190 Corveis which I ought to have from the Quarters I have not 30 upon an Average nor can I get them without force. The situation of this Ground is strong but the Works are down and it is open to an Enemy on every side, which is a disagreeable Circumstance with a weak Garrison: while you protect us with your Fleet I am easy, but I wish to secure the Island in the best manner I can in case of the Fleets absence by repairing and adding Works which I am totally unable to do without the assistance of an Arm'd Vessel. I should be glad to pay my respects to you on Tuesday Morning in my way to the Troops about Gros Islet, and if it is not inconvenient, should be obliged to you for a Tender to be at the Carenage at Seven O Clock in the morning.

I congratulate you on the fine weather: I hope you profit of it in health, and have the honor to be Sir &ca.

A ST: LEGER

Sir G. B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

Inclosed in the foregoing Letter

Pierre St. Jacques, An Inhabitant at Ance du Vieux Fort St: Lucia, has a Commission from the Marquis De

Bouillé to command the Free Mulattoes and Negroes upon that Island, and is supposed to have been the Person that transmitted Intelligence to St: Vincents.

To Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Sandwich 31st December 1780

Sir

I have been this Instant honor'd with your Letter of this Date with the Note inclosed: I make no Doubt but you meet with very great Interruption and embarrassment in getting your Orders relative to the Government of this Island carried into Execution, what assistance is in my power, I shall at all times readily afford you, and have given Orders to the Captain of the Sylph Cutter to repair immediately to the Carenage and take on board such Troops as you may think necessary for the Apprehension of the Traitor mentioned in your Letter or any others you may think necessary, and have given him directions accordingly: I shall be glad of the pleasure of seeing you on board the Sandwich and shall send one of the Sailing Cutters to attend you at the time you mention on Tuesday Morning: I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Brig^r Gen^l St: Leger &ca.

To Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Sandwich, January 1st 1781

Sir

As I observe in the St. Lucia Gazette of the 30th of last Month, published at the Carenage that the sailing of Admiral Drake on a Cruize from this Bay with Five Men of War is therein mention'd which will of Course

be conveyed over to Martinique, I must beg the favour of you to order the Printer thereof not to take notice in future of the arrival or sailing of any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War whatever, as it may be attended with very great detriment to His Majesty's service.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Brig: Gen^l St. Leger &ca.

From the Navy Board

Navy Office 1st Jan^y 1781

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 13th Nov^r last, acquainting us that you had ordered Commodore Hotham to send the Fame, Vigilant and Suffolk to England as also the Vengeance if he thought it necessary. We are &ca.

CHAS. MIDDLETON

EDM^D HUNT

GEORGE MARSH

Adm^l Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

*To and from the Marquis de Bouillé, Governor-General
of the French Windward Islands*

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia

3rd Jan^y 1781

Sir

I have received the Honour of your Excellency's Letter which was delivered to me by Captain Savage who you permitted to come in the Cartel I had the Honour to send to your Excellency and perfectly agree in Opinion with your Excellency as to the Exchange of Mons^r Fonteneau for Captain Savage.

In regard to the Correspondence between Your Excellency and Mr. Cunningham Governor of Barbadoes, and the Flag of Truce you sent to that Island, it was before my arrival from America: I found an Embargo at that Island on my Arrival, which I suppose was the reason the Flag of truce had been detained.

I was surprized and Angry that the Commissary of Prisoners at that Island had not agreeable to my Orders sent in good and proper Vessels as Cartels the Prisoners of War to France in August last, and immediately gave Orders to procure if possible proper Vessels for that purpose, reserving a sufficient Number to be returned to your Excellency in the Room of those belonging to the Rover which Your Excellency in Your Letter to Governor Cunningham had promised should be delivered, and in Consequence of which I had Dispatched a Cartel to Grenada with Your Excellency's said Letter, and which Cartel is not yet returned to Me.

I have the Honor to acquaint your Excellency likewise, that the Commissary of Prisoners at Barbadoes has acquainted Me that he could procure but One Vessel at Barbadoes, sufficient only to take the Spanish Prisoners of War, which has obliged me to Order Transports from this Island, to accommodate the French Prisoners of War either to your Excellency, if we agree on the Exchange or to France.

I am obliged to Your Excellency for the Honor you have done me, in communicating to Me the Cartel as settled between Our Courts, of which as yet, I have not received Notice, it proves to Me the Humanity of both Courts, and how willing they are to relieve the Calamities of those Brave Men who have done their Duty to their King and Country, and altho' I have no particular Instructions from my Court, Yet the Rank I bear as Commander in Chief of the British Fleet in these Seas, empowers me to agree with Your Excellency in an Exchange, Man for Man, which I shall be always to accede to, and should the Orders which I hourly expect in the

Great Reinforcement now upon its passage to join me direct me to look upon the Cartel as settled by our Courts, as binding in this part of the World, I shall bona fide strictly adhere thereto.

In the mean time I have sent by Captain Savage all the French Prisoners of War which were on board the British Fleet, and should Your Excellency coincide with me, and return the Men belonging to the Rover and the Petty Officers and Men belonging to the Centaur who were in a Vessel from Boston and carried into Martinique, Your Excellency may be assured that an Equal Number of good and Healthy Men and such as your Excellency may particularly desire shall be instantly returned to Martinique, as I have sent Transports to Barbadoes for that purpose.

I have the greatest Honor and Respect for the Character of the Marquis de Bouillé, for that great Regard and Affection he shows at all times for his King and Country. I flatter myself I have the same for Mine, between Military Men every Transaction should be plain and Open, such Conduct you shall find in Me; and I have not the least doubt but I shall experience the same in your Excellency; for altho' War has made our Nations at variance, Men of Honor who respect each other cannot be personal Enemies; And I solemnly assure you it will give me particular pleasure to obey the Commands of Madam de Bouillé, or any of her Friends, if the British Islands afford any thing not to be obtain'd in the French Islands, without ceremony I shall make the same Request to your Excellency being convinced that you will coincide with Me that it is our duty to alleviate in every Manner we can the Calamities attending on War.

I have the honor to be &c.

G: B: RODNEY

His Excellency the Marquis de Bouillié &c.

P S: Captain Savage will communicate to your Excellency several things not mention'd in this Letter.

Translation to the Answer of the above Letter
dated Martinique 11th January 1781

Sir

I send your Excellency the remainder of the Rover's Crew making with 61 Men and three Officers already sent to Grenada the whole of them.

There remains still about 110 Sailors at St: Pierre and near that number at Guadaloupe which I shall cause to be returned in the Cartel you have announced.

I likewise send back to your Excellency three Officers mentioned in the account transmitted by Mr: Savage (whom you have authorized to treat for the Exchange of Prisoners) by which you will see what you have received.

I have always acted, I am bold to say, with Candour in every Affair I have had authority to treat of with the English Nation and shall always act therein in the same manner; I am well persuaded your Excellency has the same principles from which some Governors have deviated.

I have seen with Pain that the Company of the Alc-mene taken in October 1779 are at this Instant at Barbadoes, where a part of them has perished! I cannot but thank your Excellency for the Orders you are about to give on that Subject and applaud a Conduct very becoming (*analogue*) to a Man of your Rank, Condition and Character, and wholly different from that you had proposed to hold.

I am writing to the Governour of Guadaloupe to send back the English Prisoners at present there in number about one Hundred.

I have the honor to be

(signed) LE MARQUIS DE BOUILLE
His Excellency Admiral Rodney &ca.

P S. I likewise send by Mr: Savage an Account of the Sea and Land Officers since your Arrival last Year in these Seas from which time no Exchange has existed: The greater part of these Officers are no longer in these Colonies being gone to Europe, but it is necessary

to ascertain their Condition that they may be enabled to serve again without any Fear of being Redemanded, this is not in the present Situation of Affairs an Act of form but an Essential Rule whereby at least the Officers made Prisoners in this part of America up to this very Day will find themselves Exchanged.

Martinique le 11th Janv^r 1781

Mons^r

Je renvoie à votre Excellence le reste de l'Equipage du Rover dont il at été remise à la Granada 61 Hommes et trois Officiers, ce qui en complete le Nombre.

Il reste encore environ 110 prisonniers matelots à St. Pierre et presque autant à la Guadeloupe, que je ferai remettre au parlementaire que vous m'annoncez. Je renvoie aussi à votre Excellence trois Officers mentionné dans l'Etat que je l'ai remis à Mons^r Sauvage, autorisé par vous à l'Exchange des prisonniers, et par lequel vous verres que vous en recevrés.

Martinique le 12th Janv^r 1781

Compte des Prisonniers entre Mons^r L'Admiral Rodney, Commandant Général des Forces Maritimes de Sa Majesté Britannique aux Isles du Vent de L'Amerique, & Mons^r le Marquis de Bouillé, Commandant General des dites Isles de sa Majesté tres Chretienne.

PRISONNIERS ANGLOIS ENVOYES PAR MONS^R LE M^S DE
BOUILLÉ

Prison^s Anglois

A Mons^r Cunningham Gouverneur de la
Barbade, par le senaut parlementaire
le largue, Capitaine y Card sous la
Conduite du S^r Montaudevert¹ 133

¹ [Marginal note:] Ces Prisonniers se sont revolté & ont conduite le Senaut a Montserrat, ou 109 ont été remis au Commiss^r des prison^{rs} 24 ont été conduit a la Barbade, ou Le Sieur Montaudevert a remis le recie des

A Mons ^r L'Admiral Rodney par Mons ^r Le Comte de Durat Gouverneur de la Granade le 17 X ^{b^{re}} 1780, Trois Offi- ciers, Sans Memoire & 61 Bas Officiers Mariniers du Matelots	61
A Mons ^r L'Admiral Rodney par Mr. Sauvage le 31 X ^{b^{re}} 1780 Trois Memo- ries, [<i>sic</i>] Sans Memoires et quatre Bas Officiers Mariniers	4
Idem le [blank] Janvier 1781 par Mons ^r Sauvage autoriser a traité des Echanges, Trois Officiers Sans Me- mories et Matelots	40
	Total <u>238</u>
Prisonniers Anglois	

PRISONNIERS, FRANCOIS, ENVOYÉS PAR MONS^R
L'ADMIRAL RODNEY

	Prison ^{rs} Fran ^s
Recu le 27 X ^{b^{re}} 1780 par le retour du de Parlimentaire Francois le Cargue; de Mons ^r Cunningham, Gouverneur de la Barbada 6 Matelots	6
Le 5 ^{me} Janvier 1781 de Mons ^r L'Admiral Rodney par Mons ^r Sauvage autorise de traiter des Echanges 18 passagés, Sans Memories & 18 Matelots	18
	Total <u>24</u>
	Pris ^{rs} Fran ^s
Prisonniers Anglois renvoyes suivant Le detail de l'autre part	238
Au moyen de quoi Mons ^r L'Admiral Rodney se doit a Mons ^r Le Marquis de Bouillé	214
	Prison ^{rs}

(Signé) MONS^R LE MARQ^S DE BOUILLÉ

109 du Commiss^r de Montserrat, a Mr. Cunningham
Gouvern^r qui n'a renvoyé en échange que 6 Prisonniers
portés ci apres dans cet Etat.

*From Captain William Bett to Commissioner
John Laforey*

Sandwich Arm'd Ship January 3rd 1781

Sir

I sailed from Charles Town the 17th Nov^r last with a Convoy from St: Augustine and had on board 23 Rebel Prisoners which I landed there.

I then made the best of my way back to Charles Town and had got within 10 Leagues of it, when a Gale of Wind from the Westward forced me to bear away to the Eastw^d. But as the Weather grew better the next day (the 4th December) I hauled in again for the Coast and had got within 20 Leag^s on the 7th when another Gale of Wind came on and Obliged me to bear away for this Island.

The weight of Metal the Ship carries renders her totally unfit for Sea where Gales of Wind so frequently happen, and her Iron Work is so bad there there was a great risk of her Guns breaking loose and her Ports so very thin and leaky that there was seldom less than 2 feet water on her lower Deck.

I arrived at Montserrat on the 25th Decem^r and took in some Water and sailed on the 28th for English Harbour, but the Current set so strong to Leeward that I was obliged to bear away for St: Johns for fear of getting farther to the Westward.

I have sent Mr. Bevan my first Lieutenant with this Letter, who will give you any Information respecting the Ship that you desire or the place we came from.

I should have been very happy to have done Myself the Honor of waiting on you, but at present, I am not able to bear the fatigue of a Ride.

If you choose the Ship should go to English Harbour, I will get her round as soon as possible. As I have left the Purser at Charles Town and no Clerk on board, I beg you will excuse my sending a Weekly Account; I can

only say I Victual 120 Men and am Short of Complement 28. I am Sir:

WM BETT

To Jn^o Laforey, Esq^r &ca.

*From John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Carcas, English Harbour Jan^y 4th 1781

Sir

I had the honour of writing to you by His Majesty's Ship the Suffolk on the 29th Ult. whose Commander has Orders to proceed immediately (to Windward of the French Islands) to join you at St: Lucia, but I fear she will make a long Passage, having been seen for 4 days after she sailed, turning against a strong Lee Current between this Island and Guadaloupe.

I dispatched the Boreas to Barbadoes on the 2nd Inst: a Copy of whose Orders I now enclose, as she called at St: John's for her Provisions and stretched away to the Northward from thence I hope she will not feel so materially the Effects of the Current.

I was preparing to send the Star Brig upon the service you proposed in your last when the Lieutenant of His Majesty's late Sloop Rover arrived here from Tortola, whose business the Copies of Letters I now enclose will explain, I have in consequence thereof, upon consulting with his Excellency General Burt and procuring Letters from him to the Spanish Governor of Porto Rico, ordered the Star and Barbuda immediately to Tortola giving Instructions to Captain Ingram of which I now transmit a Copy.

As I conclude, Sir, you will think it necessary, that some Examples should be made of the Ring leaders of this Mutiny, I beg leave to submit to your Judgment whether some of them should not be tried at this Port,

in order that I may receive your Directions therein before I send them all to you.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Lieutenant Gerard acquaints Me, the Egmont after laying for some time in one of the Bays at Porto Rico dismasted, has proceeded down to Jamaica.

The Star is to take down from hence about 60 Spanish Prisoners which General Burt and myself think, will be a proper Compliment to the Spanish Governor of Porto Rico for his Humanity and good Treatment to the Crew of the Deal Castle which Lieutenant Gerard has reported to us, and as these Prisoners are very sensible of our reciprocal Conduct towards them here it may be the means of establishing a good intercourse in our future Exchanges which General Burt will propose to him for the Prisoners now at St. Kitts.

I received a Letter this Morning of which I inclose a Copy from the Commander of the Sandwich Armed Ship, but as his Letter came by a hired Porter, and not by his Lieutenant as he proposed, I can at present give no further account of him than what it imports; I have sent him Orders to remain at St: Johns to raise men for the Service, whereas it is too soon for him to return to America; I intend to continue him until I receive your directions on that head.

I beg leave to represent to you, Sir, that if there are at St: Lucia any empty Arm'd Transports they might be made very serviceable until they are wanted for other purposes; if one was station'd at St: Johns Road, another at St. Kitts and a third at Montserrat, with a Lieutenant and a Midshipman on board of each to raise and secure Men for the Fleet, for the want of which we derive no recruit from the two latter Islands and we suffer here from my being obliged at times to send the Star Brig upon their Services which Vessel might be made very useful for more Active Employment and whose Commander Captain Ingram is better calculated to distinguish himself in your Fleet by his great Alertness and

diligence than in laying in Port where his Merit cannot be shewn to fair advantage.

I request Sir you will appoint a Lieut^t to the Carcas Bomb, the present one Lieutenant Thompson commanding the Antigua Brig, the want of one being an Impediment to my carrying on my Duty from that Vessel which has not at this Time one Mate or Midshipman belonging to her. I send this by one of the Pilot Boats hired to attend upon your Fleet, and shall be very soon followed by others.

One of them has been for some time past and is still employed in bringing up Cordage and Stores from St: Kitts.

I enclose some Intelligence transmitted to me from Mr. Akers at St: Kitts.

The Venus Frigate will be ready in a few days. The Pachahunta having a Considerable Leak in her Magazine, being 6 Months foul and her Lower Rigging so bad we are obliged to shift it: I have ordered her to be hove down, but she will very soon be ready for Sea.

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir: &ca.

JN^O LAFOREY

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Major General the Honorable John Vaughan

Sir

Sandwich 4th January 1781

I am honor'd with your Excellency's Letter of the 29th of December relative to the prevailing reports that a Reinforcement of Troops will be sent out with Sir Sam^l Hood, and desiring my Opinion should that event happen in what manner our joint forces can Act with the greatest Advantage to His Majesty's Service.

For my part I am and always have been of Opinion that an Attack upon the French Islands (provided there is sufficient force to make the attempt) will be of the greatest consequence, and answer the Ends of Govern-

ment better, more distress the Enemy and more likely to succeed than the attack upon Grenada, where the Enemy have had such a length of time to Fortify, and by all Accounts have fortified it in such a Manner as will require a large Force and regular Siege to subdue it and the Island itself being so far to Leeward it will be impossible for me to suffer the Fleet to leave its Station to Windward, and the British Islands exposed, when a French Fleet is hourly expected under the Count D'Estaing as I am assured by the Marquis de Boullié, who has *the modesty* to refer me to him in regard to the Exchange of Prisoners; However as I shall soon have the Honor to see you we can settle these matters when we meet.

I have sent by this Express, Letters to Sir Sam^l Hood to remain at Barbadoes with the Convoy till he sees or hears from me.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

General Vaughan &ca.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich St: Lucia 4th January 1781

Sir

The Count D:Estaing being almost hourly expected with a great Force in these Seas it becomes more immediately necessary for His Majesty's service that the whole of the Ships should be collected as soon as possible. For which purpose I must desire you will please to hasten the Vigilant, Suffolk, Alcmene, Venus, Boreas and Amazon to join me either at Barbadoes or this Island with the utmost Dispatch. It will be necessary likewise for the Fire Ships to join me under a proper Convoy and that they all make their passage to Windward. I am Sir: &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Commodore Hotham &ca.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay 4th Jan^y 1781

Sir

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that the Marquis of Bouillé seem to be playing some of his French Tricks, his Letter of the delivery of the Men belonging to His Majesty's Sloop the Rover, and which I sent to Grenada has not been complied with: I have wrote to him upon the subject however at all events the French Prisoners must be still detain'd at Barbadoes till I can send proper Transports for them: The gross Imposition of your Merchants at Bridgetown is what I cannot submit to or suffer Government to be so imposed on. I have wrote to Mr: Scott the Agent upon no Account to Hire any Vessels, as I shall send proper Transports for the Prisoners. In all probability it will not be long before I may have the Honour of seeing you: I am with great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Governor Cunningham &ca.

*To Robert Scott, Agent for Prisoners of War at
Barbados*

Sandwich 4th January 1781

Sir,

I received your Letter relative to the hiring of Vessels for the Prisoners of War, the propositions appear to me to be so gross as imposition upon the Public that I can by no means approve of them: I must therefore desire you will hire no Vessels whatever without further Directions from me as I shall send Transport Ships belonging to His Majesty, to carry the French Prisoners to their destin'd Port: you will hear further from me

shortly and may assure the French Prisoners, that they shall soon be sent either to France or the French Islands. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Mr: Rob^t Scott

Agent for Prisoners at Barbadoes

To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Sandwich St: Lucia 4th Jan^y 1781

Sir,

As the Speedy arrival of a Great French Force under the Command of Count D'Estaing (which is hourly expected by the French in these Seas) is likely to make this again the Seat of War and small Vessels will be absolutely necessary,

I must therefore desire you will please either to hire or Purchase (as you shall judge best for the Interest of Government) Two or Three of them to be commanded by Lieutenants: I am with great regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &ca.

From Captain William Fooks

Greyhound, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes
4th January 1781

Sir

I take the opportunity of the Packet to inform you that I have just anchor'd in Carlisle Bay with our Main Mast very badly Sprung in the head, so much that it was the Opinion of the Carpenter and other Officers that it could not be secured at Sea. I this morning bore up being about Ten or Twelve Leagues to Windward of

this Island, the Current having run so strong to the Westward as prevented my getting further to Windward. I shall use every dispatch possible in getting the Main Mast fished, and put your Order in execution. I am Sir

Your most Obedient servant

WM FOOKS

Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Admiralty Office 4th Jan^r 1781

Sir

I received on the 28th Ult: by the First Lieutenant of the Yarmouth your Letter of the 12th of November last, enclosing the sentence passed by the Court Martial on Captain Bateman, late of His Majesty's Ship the Yarmouth, as also your two Letters of the 13th November, the one enclosing the State and Condition of the Squadron under your Command, the other giving an Account of your Proceedings, and enclosing the Letters you had received from Captain Gayton of the Romulus, containing his Account of the Success of the Enterprize which Sir Henry Clinton, desired to have carried on in the Chesapeak, and enclosing also the Minutes of the different Courts Martial held since your Arrival in the West Indies; And having laid your said Letters before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you that they very well approve of your proceedings, as also of the Conduct of Captain Gayton in the Enterprize abovementioned.

The Fox and Pegasus will sail in a few days to Cork, to convoy from thence the Trade which are ready to depart for the West Indies, and a Convoy will sail from Spithead, the first fair Wind after the 20th of next Month, with the Trade bound from England to those Parts.

The Monarca, which sailed with Sir Samuel Hood,

parted from him the 11th of last Month dismasted, and arrived at Plymouth a few days ago. She will be refitted with all dispatch, and sent out to reinforce the Squadron under your Command.

I have only to add that the Navy Board are taking the utmost Care to replace the Loss of Masts and Stores occasioned by the late dreadful Hurricane at the Leeward Islands, the Union of 300 Tons being already loaded at Spithead, and the King George of 1150 Tons and the Flora of 700 now taking in their Cargoes at Wolwich for that Purpose.

I have the honor to be with great Regard &ca.

PHIL: STEPHENS

P S: I had almost omitted, tho' it affords me great pleasure to acquaint you, that the Egmont and Endymion, two of the missing Ships of your Squadron arrived at Jamaica on the 28th and 29th of October, The Former lost all her Masts and was shook in her frame, The latter had only her Foremast standing:
To Admiral Sir: G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Anthony Munton, Naval Officer at Antigua

Barbadoes, 6th January 1781

Sir

I have the Honor to inform you of my arrival here of the Evening of the 5th Inst. pursuant to Orders from Commiss^r Laforey to hire a Storehouse and Yard convenient to the water Side, for the reception of Naval Stores, and for making such other arrangements, as may be necessary for the most effectual and expeditious Supply and Refitment of His Majesty's Ships under your Command.

And the Commissioner having also received your Letter of the 5th Inst: reflecting strongly upon the Conduct of Mr. John Tucker employed as Agent for Naval Affairs

at this Island, I have it in Direction to make strict enquiry into the Cause thereof; and if the Reports which you have received of him are founded upon Facts; I am in that Contingency to deliver his warrant to Mr. William Raggett establishing him Storekeeper to the Storehouse I shall engage here.

I shall immediately take Mr: Tuckers accounts under my Examination for the purpose of deducting all unreasonable Charges which may appear in them, and I should be particularly Obligated and assisted in this business if you would do Me the Honor to communicate any particular instances of Complaint reported against Mr: Tucker.

As soon as these intended Regulations are accomplished, I shall take the earliest opportunity of paying my personal Duty and for receiving such Orders from you as in their Execution may best tend to the expeditious Equipment of His Majesty's Ships at St. Lucia.

I have the Honor to Subscribe Myself with the utmost respect Sir

Your &ca. &ca. &ca.

ANT^Y MUNTON

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Sandwich 7th January 1781

Sir

I have been honoured with the receipt of your Letter of the 4th Instant, together with its Inclosures by the Schooner, which have instantly returned to you and shall loose no time in answering your Letter by a Man of War which will probably be almost with you as soon as you receive this. I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

To John Laforey Esq^r
Antigua

G: B: RODNEY

To Commissioner John Laforey

Sandwich, 7th January 1781

Sir

As I find it absolutely necessary in order to prevent the Constant communication between this Island and Martinique to station Men of War Sloops in two of the Bays from whence Intelligence is constantly carried over, and think the Antigua Brig under a proper Master and Commander will answer very well for that purpose: I have appointed Mr. Charrington my First Lieutenant to succeed Captain Pender in her, and other Officers, those gone with him into the Berbuda, and must desire you will please to cause her still to be continued on the Establishment of a Man of War Sloop with a Complement of Sixty Men Officers Included. I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To John Laforey Esq^r
Antigua

To Edward Burke of Tortola

Sandwich 7th January 1781

Sir:

Commissioner Laforey has favour'd me with the Copy of the Letter you wrote him, giving an account of the Steps you have taken on occasion of part of the Rover's people having run away with the Atlantic Cartel Ship and I should be wanting in my Duty as Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on this Station if I did not return you my Acknowledgements for the Zeal and Activity you have exerted for His Majesty's Service, and I must likewise beg of you in my Name to present my best Thanks to the President for the Measures he directed on your Application to be taken, effectually to secure the Delinquents.

I shall take another opportunity to answer the Obliging Letter I received at New York from the Legislative Body of your Island, being in haste to detach this ship in order to effectually secure and bring back the Mutineers to their Duty. I am Sir

G: B: RODNEY &CA.

Edward Burke Esq^r

From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Barbadoes, 7th January 1781

Sir

I have the Honor to write you that in consequence of your Letter to Commissioner Laforey he has been pleased to appoint me Naval Storekeeper here in the room of Mr. John Tucker.

Mr. Munton the Naval Officer at Antigua is come up by the Commissioners Direction with me in order that We may hire Magazines proper to deposit Naval Stores in, and to arrange matters upon the best plan.

I beg leave to trespass on your time so far as to say, that my Abilities shall be exerted to the utmost to prove myself not unworthy your favour, and of the Trust reposed in me.

With Sentiments of great Gratitude and with profound respect: I have the honor to be &ca.

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

WILLIAM RAGGETT

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
8th January 1781

Sir

I hope you have received the Dispatches I sent by His Majesty's Sloop the Surprise, which sailed on the 18th of

December, since which I have received undoubted Intelligence that Count D'Estaing with the Combined Fleet is hourly expected in these Seas. I have this Instant an Account of Sir Samuel Hood's arrival at Barbadoes with Five Sail of the Line, who confirms the Account of D'Estaing being sailed with 22 Ships of the Line: I trust therefore you will not delay a Moment in sending me a reinforcement, as I shall send a Wooden Bottom'd Line of Battle Ship down with the Convoy.

I have the honor to be &c.

G: B: RODNEY

Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker
Jamaica

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel, 10th January 1781

Sir

Though you did not order me to send the Sylph after you, yet, as I heard you tell Captain Pulteney, when he arrived at Gros Islet, that you should take him to Sea with you, had he not informed you, that he had Stores and Medicines to put on shore at the Carenage, I conclude you may want him and therefore dispatch him, and take the opportunity of acquainting you that His Majesty's Ship the Convert, returned to this Anchorage at two OClock on Tuesday morning, when Captain Hervey reported to me, that his Fore Rigging was all broke above the Cat harpings, and quite unfit for further use. The Mast can be fished, and he is about making a Gang of Shrouds from his Stream Cable, and he has Orders from me to use the utmost Dispatch, in getting ready for Sea.

Captain Robinson after thinking the Cyclops Bowsprit could be repaired, without getting it out, acquainted Me this Morning, that new Defects were discovered. I ordered a survey on it, and it is reported to me by the Surveyors

that the Bowsprit must come out, the Bad Wood be taken away and fished, which shall be done as fast as possible.

Enclosed I transmit you Captain Houlton's reply to my Orders and Directions.

The Captains of the *Triumph* and *Centaur*, report to me, that their Ships will be ready for Sea, the latter in two days, what retards the *Centaur* is, her having sprung one of the Main Cross trees in getting in the *Triumph's* Mast, and if the Smith's do not deceive them, she will be ready by that time.

The *Triumph's* fore yard will not (in the Carpenter's Opinion) be ready for getting off till Saturday next, before which time, every other part of the Masts and Rigging will be compleated.

The Provisions short of three Months for the said Ship, are expected up from the Carenage immediately; upwards of Sixty Tons of her Water Casks are empty, and the Watering of the Ship at a Stand owing to the Long Boat's being very leaky.

I have directed Captains Afleck and Nott, to inspect into the State of the Batteries on Pidgeon Island, and report to me, their Opinions, what further strength can be added to the Island, by His Majesty's Ships in this Bay.

I have given directions that every necessary Article of Powder &c. that is wanted and can be spared, from the Ships here, be sent to the different Batteries on Pidgeon Island, and this day, One Hundred Men are on shore there, to get the Four Thirty two Pounders up, on the New Battery.

Pursuant to your directions, I, this morning assembled a Court Martial for the tryal of Patrick Fitzsimons and James Ayrley belonging to the *Triumph*, the latter is to receive Two Hundred Lashes, the formers charge not being proved, was acquitted.

The *Antigua* is come up here from the Carenage, and when I can get the Pilot, I shall dispatch her, agreeable to the Orders you left with me.

The *Suffolk* arrived here this afternoon, and brought

the Dispatches, which accompany this, from Commissi^r Laforey.

I have the honor to be with great Regard &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

Inclosed in the foregoing Letter

Montagu at Carenage
9th January 1781

Sir

I am this instant honour'd by yours of this date with Orders to put myself under your Command, and to use the utmost dispatch in refitting His Majesty's Ship Montagu under my Command, and to proceed with her as soon as possible to Gros Islet, which I beg leave to assure you shall be most chearfully complied with, the Weekly Account that I have the honor to enclose you, will shew the state of the Ships Comp^y.

His Majesty's Sloops St: Vincent and Antigua, are both here, the former was dismasted in the Hurricane, is now refitting in order to proceed with the utmost expedition to Gros Islet: The Antigua is come here to compleat her Provisions, when she is to proceed likewise to Gros Islet; at present it blows fresh and the Sea runs high, if it should moderate so as to admit of an Open Boat passing with Provisions, she will sail this Evening.

I have sent to enquire after Mark Belford the Pilot, if he is to be met with he shall be sent immediately on board the Russel. I am Sir,

Your most Obliged and Obedient humble servant

JN^O HOULTON

To Rear Adm^l Drake &ca.

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Antigua 11th January 1781

Sir

I had the honor of your three Letters dated the 30th and 31st of December, by His Majesty's Ship Vigilant and yesterday that of the 7th Instant by the Good Intent Pilot Boat.

I will purchase the Two Vessels you desire of the Tonnage as nearly as I can get them as soon as ever they can be procured.

I now send by the Three Sisters Pilot Boat the Tools you have required for erecting the Hospital, but we cannot procure here the Materials for a Forge. We have for some time past been inconvenienced thro' the want of two pair of Bellows to encrease our Smiths Shop in the Yard and I have been obliged to write to England for them.

It is impracticable to hire Negroe Artificers to go off this Island, it is with no small difficulty We can get a sufficiency for the demand of the Yard upon the spot.

The Vengeance has unfortunately carried away her Main Mast in heaving down, this will retard her refitment seven or Eight days, but the greatest Evil is the loss of her Mast, it must be replaced by one of a Sixty four Gun Ship's, which however Commodore Hotham and his Captain think from the Qualities of the Ship she will not be a worse Man of War for it.

The Foremast of the Vigilant has been found defective. I hope we will be able to patch it up, as she is not Copper'd and consequently her service in this Country of no very long duration.

I have the honor to be &c.

JOHN LAFOREY

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

From Commodore William Hotham

Vengeance, English Harbour, Antigua
11th Jan^r 1781

Sir

I arrived here on Saturday last and the Intrepid came in the same Evening, having carried away her Maintop-mast, and being furnished with one from the Vigilant sailed again on Tuesday Morning. The Foremast of the latter being found rotten and defective at the head, the Builder finds it absolutely necessary that it should be taken out before he can pronounce whether it may again be made serviceable: The Vengeance in heaving down carried away her Main Mast, of which Accident Commodore Laforey will more particularly inform you, as it happen'd before my arrival: I also beg leave to refer you to him for other occurrences.

Enclosed is the State and Condition of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels at this Island, and have the Honor to be Sir &ca.

WM HOTHAM

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
12th January 1781

Sir:

This Evening Captain Savage in the Lizard returned with the Flag of Truce to this Bay. I have dispatched him to you with the Letters he brought, concluding you would wish to see him, receive the Letter and be informed of his negociation. The Ships are placed in a Line at half a Cable's distance, with Springs: I do not flatter myself with much Aid from the Batteries on

Pidgeon Island; not one having a platform. inclosed you have Captain's Afflick and Nott's Report, who I directed to inspect them, should I have time, before I am visited and can get strength, I intend to get some of the Cornwall's Decks for Platforms, and have directed Mr. Paterson to purchase Stuff of a sufficient Scantling for Joints, but it will be a work of time; another Hospital is nearly finished, I have not heard whether Mr. Paterson has closed the agreement about the Church.

The Montagu will come up on Monday next. The Suffolk has sprung her Main Topmast and getting another up. I expect the Triumphs Fore Yard will be finished on Saturday next.

The Cyclops Bowsprit is still out, and the Converts Foremast not yet finished, but no time shall be lost.

I need not mention any News from Martinique as Captain Savage will be the Bearer of this.

The St: Vincent, and Antigua Brigs, are not yet gone to their stations. The former which I design'd for Esperance, cannot go there, as the Pilot you named tells me a Pinnacle can scarce get in. The Latter waits for a four Inch tow Line, which none of the Ships here can supply her with. The Pilot says it is impracticable for her to get out from Port Dauphine without warping: I have dispatched the Little John, to Mr. Paterson to purchase one for her.

I intend should the Enemy's Fleet appear to Windw^d to send the Drake and Little John to you (by different routes) with the Intelligence. The Little John is best calculated to turn up close with the St: Lucia shore, to prevent being interrupted by any of the Enemy's small Cruizers. And the Drake to go up between this Island and St: Vincents; whether it will be possible for you to receive such Intelligence, before the Enemy may endeavour to Effect any design they may have on this Island, you are the best Judge. I have the honor to be &c.

F: S: DRAKE

To Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

From Charles Howard

Resolution, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes
13th Jan^r 1781

Sir,

The Departure of Rear Admiral Sir Chal^r Ogle for Europe to whom I am Secretary and whose Business I have to transact, (added to my own ill state of health) induces me to request you will favour me with Twelve Months Leave of Absence from my Duty, in order to attend the transactions of his Business, and that you will do me the favour to appoint Mr. William Old, Deputy Purser of the Resolution in my Absence; I am emboldened to make this request as the like Indulgencies have been granted to the secretaries of other Admirals on their leaving this Country. I am with due Respect Sir: &ca.

CHAS: HOWARD

To Admiral Sir: G: B: Rodney

To Charles Howard

Sandwich 14th January 1781

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 13th Instant desiring leave to be absent from your Ship as well for the purpose of attending on Sir Chaloner Ogle to whom you are Secretary (and whose Business requires your presence with him) as for the recovery of your health, and requesting Mr. William Old may be appointed Deputy Purser of the Resolution during your absence; and in answer thereto have to inform you that for the reasons therein set forth; you have leave of absence accordingly, and that I shall agreeable to your request, give Orders

for Mr. William Old to be appointed Deputy Purser of the Resolution during your said Absence. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Mr. Charles Howard

*From Thomas Shirley, Contractor for Victualing the
British Fleet*

Bridge Town, Barbadoes: 15th Jan^r 1781

Sir,

The alarming situation to which the Contractors for Victualing His Majesty's Ships in this Country are reduced, from the Victualing Board sending out Provisions which have been of late uniformly preferr'd, lays me under the necessity of representing to your Excellency, that while such a practice continues it will be impossible for Mr: Blackbourn and myself to proceed further in Victualing the Squadron without exposing ourselves to inevitable ruin.

I will not trouble your Excellency with a detail of the repeated Instances of this preference prior to the Fleet's departure for America, and by which the Contractors loss in the late Hurricane was encreased Tenfold, having all their Stores then filled with Provisions, which would have not been the Case had the Squadron been Victualed out of them; I will only beg leave to mention later Instances of the same kind; on your return here from America; I expected to have been call'd upon for a supply, which by lightening my Stock in hand would have enabled me to ascertain the deficiencies occasion'd by the Hurricane, but to my extreme Concern the Fleet departed without taking any thing from me: Since that period I sent to St: Lucia a large Ship with a Cargo of new Provisions, and persuaded myself she would have been discharged immediately into the Fleet, but in persuance of the same System she was ordered to the Carenage.

Part of the Squadron is now returned to this Island

and from the demands which have been made, I perceive the only Article desired of me is Rum, tho' I have reason to think His Majesty's Ships are in want of all Species of Provisions: I have Twelve sail of Victualers in the Fleet now arrived, but I am informed there is also in the same Convoy a Number of Ships loaded by the Victualing Board: In this state of Embarrassment I entreat the favour of your Excellency's determination whether His Majesty's Squadron under your Command shall Victual out of the Ships loaded by the Board, or out of the Contractors stores at the different Islands, that in either case, I may send the necessary directions to England, as well as regulate my Engagements in this Country:

From the representation that I have taken the Liberty to make, I persuade myself that the peculiar hardships of the Contractors situation will be apparent to your Excellency, and that I shall in consequence be relieved from the interference of the Victualing Office Ships: I am with all imaginable deference and respect Sir:

THOS: SHIRLEY

Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney

*To Thomas Shirley, Contractor for Victualing the
British Fleet*

Sandwich 15th January 1781

Sir,

I have received your Letter of this date, representing the impossibility of Mr. Blackburn's and yourself proceeding further in Victualing the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under my Command without running the risk of inevitable Ruin, if the Provisions from the Victualers sent out by the Victualing Board continued to be issued in preference to those in possession of the Contractors. Representing also further that there are now Twelve

Sail of Victualers in the present Fleet belonging to the Contractors and desiring to know whether the Kings Ships are to be Victualed out of the Ships loaded by the Board or out of the Contractors Stores at the different Islands, that you may send the necessary directions to England, as well as know how to regulate your Engagements in this Country.

In answer to which I have to inform you that I know of no Orders being given for Provisions to be Issued out of the Victualing Board Transports in preference to those of the Contractors, and that has [*sic*] I have had no Complaint of the Contractors failing in the Terms of their Contract shall not give any, but on the Contrary, I shall immediately Order His Majesty's Ships under my Command to be compleated with Rum, and every other species of Provisions they may be in want of from the Contractors Stores, that you may Know how to take your measures accordingly: I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

Thos: Shirley Esq^r
Agent Victualer

*From Thomas Shirley, Contractor for Victualing the
British Fleet*

Barbadoes, 16th January 1781

Sir,

Having been honor'd with your Commands to state to you any Circumstance which may obstruct the Victual^s of His Majesty's Ships at this Island: I beg leave to instance one respecting the Article of Rum.

By several Laws of Barbadoes all Rum imported from the other British Islands, must be exported within a limited Time to some other Island under His Majesty's Obedience, and Bond given by the Importer to the Treasurer here to produce a Certificate that such Rum has been so landed. On receiving these Laws, I found to my great surprize that Government contrary to its established

practise with other Colonies, had suffered them to become of force without a reservation, *excepting for His Majesty's Service*: From the uncertainty of the Squadron's movements, I have been obliged to lay in Stocks of Rum at the different Islands, to be transported from One to the other as the exigencies of service might require. The quantity of Rum in my possession on the 1st Instant, was One Hundred and Ninety Thousand Gallons, which would suffice for the Consumption of Seventeen Thousand Men, one Hundred and Seventy seven Days, and I lost in the Hurricane Ten Thousand One Hundred Gallons, equal to Nine Days serving for the same number of Men, but then this stock as I have already mention'd, lays at the different Islands.

Expecting that the Law would not be enforced against me, I imported some time since One Hundred and Seventy Puncheons of Rum from Tobago and Antigua, but not having then the Advantage of your Excellency's Protection, I was obliged to enter into Bond to export it: From the Extent of the Demands now made for Spirits, I find I shall be unable to execute them, unless I am permitted to issue part of the Imported Rum. Under these Circumstances I entreat the favor of Your Excellency's Interposition to procure me Liberty to use the Tobago and Antigua Rum, as well as to import from the British Islands such Quantities as the service may require: I further beg leave to suggest to your Excellency that unless the Treasurer of Barbadoes be prevailed upon to deliver up my Bond; I shall be obligated to pay the enormous Duty of One Shilling and Sixpence Per Gallon, a Charge that must eventually fall upon Government.

On my Arrival in the West Indies, the same Obstacle existed at Antigua, but the Law of that Island, respecting imported Rum, has been dispenced with in all instances that related to His Majesty's Service.

I am with profound Respect Sir &ca.

THOS: SHIRLEY

Adm^l Sir. G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Captain Walter Sterling

Gibraltar, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
Jan^y 16th 1781

Sir

The Surgeon of His Majesty's Ship Gibraltar under my Command, having represented to me by Letter of this date, that the Necessaries for the Sick and Hurt Seamen, are all expended, you will be pleased to order a supply for 6 Months for 650 Men; he informs me the time is not expired for which the last supply was meant to serve, but owing to the Number Sick on board before and since we left England the necessaries are all expended. I am &ca.

WALTER STERLING

Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, 16th January 1781

Sir

As I find it will be necessary to Order His Majesty's Ship Alcmena to England, with Sir Chaloner Ogle and my Dispatches, I am to desire that you will please to give directions for her being Caulked and Eq[u]ipped with all possible Expedition in order to proceed on this Service; sending home in her as many Invalids as she can conveniently carry. You may expect in a few Days Sir Chaloner Ogle with the Convoy from England for Antigua, St: Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat.

The General having informed me an Army Transport called the Pensylvania Pacquet had arrived at St: Kitts with Rum and other Things they are much in want of, you will please to give directions to Captain Douglas as speedily as possible, to take her under Convoy and

proceed with her to Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia, making his passage to Windward of all the Islands. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY
Commodore Hotham &ca.

From Captain Henry Savage

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes

16th January 1781

Sir

Being on a Cruize on the Coast of Trinidad in His Majesty's Sloop Rover on the 12th September 1780, I received Information by the Capture of a small Spanish Schooner, that the Juno French Frigate of 40 Guns and 360 Men was at an Anchor in St: Joseph's Road, on which I made every Effect to get to the Eastward. On the Evening at 6 O'Clock the Frigate appeared. I immediately turned one of my Prizes adrift and sent the other to Tobago and plied to Windward all Night, on break of Day (the 13th) saw the Enemy about 3 Leagues on the Lee Beam. I directly tacked to the Southward, the Enemy continuing the Chace till One OClock, being in our Wake fixed her Bow Chace, her second Gun carried away our Maintopmast stay: The Frigate being within point blank Shot, bore up and began to Engage and continued in Action on different positions for near half an Hour. The Enemy being then within Pistol Shot, and the Rover's Main Topmast shot away, and otherwise much disabled in her standing and Running Rigging, the great disproportion of Force I had to oppose, and no prospect of a retreat, I hope will plead my Surrendering.

You will please Sir to do me the honor to order a Court of Enquiry on my Conduct for the loss of the said Sloop.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir &ca.

HENRY SAVAGE

To Adm^l Sir. G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

Correspondence of Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel, Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia
17th January, 1781

Sir

Since I did myself the Honor of writing you by Captain Savage the 12th Instant, I have received a Letter from Brigadier General St: Leger, a Copy of which I now enclose, together with my Answer, and should have thought it proper to transmit it to you earlier, but had no Conveyance, until the Convert or Cyclops, was ready.

I thought it necessary you should be acquainted with General St: Leger's Letter, and it also occur'd to me, that the Cyclops, and Convert were the Repeaters, with the Colours on board, which might probably be required by you; I have therefore dispatched them both to you.

The Ajax returned here last Sunday, and Captain Symons informs me, that on the 7th Instant, the Intrepid sprung her Main Topmast so bad, she could not carry sail, and having no other on board and being then in sight of Antigua, he directed her to go to English Harbour.

The Montagu came up to this Bay, on Monday last.

I have directed Mr: Paterson to hire people to rip up, as much of the Cornwallis's Decks, as will serve the purpose of Platforms for the Batteries on Pidgeon Island, with strict enjunctions, to suffer none to be taken away, by any Person whatsoever, and I have desired Captain Wilkinson will superintend.

No account has yet reached me from Mr. Paterson, respecting the purchase of the Church, he writes me, he has agreed for a Frame 62 Feet long, and 29 Feet wide, also a Considerable Quantity of Boards, Shingles &ca. at Souffrie, as there is no Craft to bring it up, but what must be hired; he is directed so to do.

A Dispatch Boat, is just arrived from Antigua. I opened the Letters from Commodore Hotham and Laforey, on service, not knowing but they might contain

Intelligence of the Enemy, which might be useful for me to know.

Inclosed are the Defects of the Montagu and Etna Bomb.

I have the honor to be &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

To Admiral Sir: G: B: Rodney: Bart.

(Inclosed in the foregoing)

Morne Fortunée
14th January 1781

Sir:

Having had the honor to receive a Letter from Admiral Sir George Rodney, in consequence of an application I made to him for assistance to force the Windward Quarters of this Island to send in Negroes, in case they were disobedient, also to know if the former plan was to be put in execution for the defence of this Island; He says "I must beg leave to refer you to Commodore Drake who will remain in this Bay (dated Gros Islet) for any Thing relative to the Public Service, who has Orders for that Purpose." In regard to Assistance, I am in hopes it may be unnecessary, but shall trouble you, if a Small Armed Vessel is wanted.

All the Ships of War being ordered to Gros: Islet, the plan of Defence, upon the Fleets going away in Autumn, drops to the Ground in a great measure (for the particulars of which I refer you to Captain Houlton of the Montagu) and the Carenage with all the Provisions of the Army and the Stores are totally unprotected, in my poor Opinion the possession of this Hill and Carenage, circumstanced as it is, is of the greatest Importance to the Fleet: This Hill taken with it falls the Island.

I am sure our people will do their Duty, but with the 46th now at Gros Islet, I have only 930 Men fit for Duty. If Sir it is not in your Power to Mann the Batteries, the only resource I can think of is to get what Men I can out of the Merchant Ships: to regulate that business

upon an alarm; I submit it to you; if it will not be proper to have an Officer of the Navy in the Carenage to assist me, who may get the distribution of the Quarters from Captain Houlton, as settled between Commodore Hotham and me, and have the direction of the landing of the Men, when necessary.

I have wrote to Captain May Commanding the 46th Regiment, to wait upon you, to fix upon a Signal in case of an Alarm, that he may immediately come to the Carenage in the Transports, or March by Land as you shall Judge most proper, for without that reinforcement I should be very weak indeed.

I have the honor to be &ca.

A. ST: LEGER

To Rear Adm^l Drake &ca.

P S: I should observe Mr: Drummond the Agent for Transports is very Ill and Captain Wilkinson the late Agent knows all the Batteries and the distribution of the Quarters.

[Enclosed in Rear Admiral Drake's letter:]

Russel Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia
15th Jan^r 1781

Sir

I was honor'd with your Letter this Morning of Yesterdays date. I wish I had it some days sooner, as two opportunities have been lost of my acquainting Admiral Sir George Bridges Rodney Bart: Commander in Chief, with its Contents, when I might have received his full and explicit Instructions for my guide, at present I have no Vessel fit to send to him, saving two, that I keep purposely to give him Intelligence by different Routs, should the Enemy appear in sight.

I thought every Plan and mode of Defence of this Island had been settled and Determined on between you and Sir George Rodney, before his Departure from hence, as nothing of that kind was left with me.

The Admiral left me in this Bay, and had some days before he went from hence, directed the Montagu to repair here, and he left Orders with me, to hasten her up, and I conceive it to be his intentions that I should remain here to protect this Anchorage, Hospitals, and Sick of the Navy on Pidgeon Island.

I have since acquainted him with the manner I have place the ship in, and have no doubt, but it has reached him e're now, and he has it in his power to change it, if he thinks proper.

The Ships of War are most of them short of their Complements, and therefore, should the Enemy approach this Bay, it will require all their strength to endeavour to repulse them.

Captain Wilkinson the late Agent, was intended to go to L'Esperance with the Brig under his Command; but as you inform me Mr: Drummond the Agent for Transports is very Ill, and Captain Wilkinson knows all the Batteries, and the destribution of the Quarters, He shall have directions from me, respecting the Landing the Seamen from the Transports to Mann the Batteries.

I shall see Captain Houlton as soon as he comes up; and be assured, afford you every assistance in my power, consistant with what I conceive to be the Admiral's design respecting the Ships (in his absence) under my Command.

I am sorry the distance between us is too great under our present circumstances for us to confer together:

I have the honor to be &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

P S. I have not as yet, seen Captain May, but I have understood the Troops in the Transports in this Bay, are Convalescents, if so, it is to be considered whether they are able to make a Sudden March, from hence to the Carenage, and indeed I should think they had best join you in the Transports directly, that they may be in the Neighbourhood of their Quarters, when they may be

wanted. I suppose Captain May has your directions, respecting them.

To Brigadier General St: Leger &ca.

[Enclosed in Rear Admiral Drake's letter:]

Russel, 17th January 1781

Sir

It having been represented to me, that Lieutenant Drummond, the Agent for Transports is very Ill, and that you are perfectly acquainted with all the Batteries and Quarters in and about the Carenage.

I must desire you will undertake to collect the Seamen from the Transports, Victualers, and Merchant Ships, and regulate them for the purpose of defending them, when an Alarm is made on the approach of an Enemy.

I have no doubt, but the Zeal for their Country's good, will animate them and give them as much Credit to their Country, as was due to those belonging to the Transports &ca: in America on the like Occasion.

I have not time by this Conveyance to send you an Order in form, but you shall soon receive one.

You will please to wait on His Excellency Brigadier General St: Leger, and let him know you have received these directions.

I wish you would send to Mr. Paterson the Contractor, to hasten up the Schooner loaded with Lime, as she is not yet arrived, and the Work[s] are at a stand for want of it.

I am sorry that the Hospitals that are already erected on Pidgeon Island, will not admit of room to receive any of the St. Vincents people, there are a great many Men belonging to the Ships in this Bay that cannot be received on shore on that account. I am Sir &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

To Captain Wilkinson

*From William Augustus Miles, Agent Victualer at
St. Lucia*

17th January 1781

Sir

In Obedience to your Commands I went on board the different Vessels charged with Provisions, for the use of His Majesty's Ships, and beg leave to inform you that the Achilles, David Hanhause Commander, appears to me to be the Ship best calculated to transact the Duty to which you have been pleased to appoint me.

I have the honor to be &ca.

W: A: MILES

To Admiral Sir. G. B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Antigua 21st January 1781

Sir

I had the honor of writing to you on the instant, by a Pilot Boat which carried some building Utensils to St: Lucia, the receipt of which Rear Admiral Drake has acknowledged.

I have now to reply to your Favor of the 4th, 6th, and 7th inst^t which have since come to my hands by the Rénard.

I have made enquiry for the small Vessels you desire to have procured to be commanded by Lieutenants at this place, but there are none at present here. I shall write to St: Kitts and Barbadoes and likewise employ a Gentleman I correspond with at St: Eustatia for that purpose, to which places I must also have recourse for proper Vessels to water the Fleet at St: Lucia no such at present being to be got here.

I conclude Mr. Munton will be by this time at St:

Lucia, who has already my directions for making the arrangement you wish to have done in your Letter of the 6th Inst^t. I hope he will be able to fix every Thing soon when I entreat the favor of you Sir, to send him to us here as our Business is much retarded by his Absence and will be more so, when the Operations of service begin.

The Antigua still remains upon the Establishment you first required her to be put, as a Man of War Sloop, her Complement which was fixed at 40 Men, and was full as many as she could stow, will I humbly conceive be better encreased at your pleasure by an Order to her Commander to bear so many Man in addition to it, which may be taken off again if found inconvenient: the Star Brig is at present in that situation.

You will doubtless be informed by Commodore Hotham of the recapture of His Majesty's Sloop Rover; I have caused proposals to be made to the Owners of the Privateer which retook her, to let her be brought up to this Port from St: Kitts, in order to ascertain what is the property of His Majesty on board her, and where she may be appraised and received again into His Service, if we can accomplish this, Commodore Hotham will contrive to have her Convoyed up.

I have the honor to be with great respect & Regard Sir &ca.

JOHN LAFOREY

To Admiral: Sir. G. B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sandwich, 22nd January 1781

Sir

I have the honor of receiving your Letter by the Cyclops, and am very glad that Things have gone on with that briskness, which I am sure will be always the Case when you Command.

I have sent down before me the Store Ships and Victualers, belonging to our Squadron, which I must desire you will please to direct may be well Moor'd on the South Side of the Bay clear of the Squadron.

The Trade, Storeships and Victualers for Jamaica comes with this Convoy. I hope the Provisions belonging to the Contractor will be taken from them with every dispatch, that no delay may be made in that Convoy's proceeding to Jamaica. The Thames Storeship bound to Jamaica having Masts in, absolutely necessary for the Squadron under my Command, I must desire you will give Orders to have them taken out and landed on the Beach of Pidgeon Island for the use of such Ships as may be in want of them. You are likewise to take out of the said Ship the Slops necessary for the Squadron under your Command.

And whereas I propose that the Suffolk should take under Convoy the Storeships, Victualers, and Trade bound to Jamaica, You are not to supply her with any Slops or Stores intended to be kept for the use of the Squadron to Windward.

The Sloop Du Guay Trouin is to accompany the Suffolk to Jamaica.

And the better to protect the said Convoy from being insulted by the Enemy from Martinique, I must desire before the Provisions and Stores are delivered at St: Lucia and the Convoy near ready to proceed to Jamaica, that you will either go yourself with 5 sail of the Line at least and Cruize off Fort Royal, in order to block up that Port, and prevent its being intercepted by the Enemy's Squadron.

But if you should think your presence necessary at Gros Islet in hastening the refitting the Ships, you will please to send what Officer you think most proper to Command the Squadron off Fort Royal.

The Thetis and Convert you will please to give directions to be refitted, with every dispatch possible.

In all probability you will see me in a short time, if

not you will have more Line of Battle Ships in 48 hours to enable you more effectually to Blockade Fort Royal.

Sir Samuel Hood with a large Squadron is now Cruizing to Windward of Martinique.

I am with great regard Sir &c.

G: B: RODNEY

P S: There is a Quantity of Medicines and Hospital Stores on board the *Belliqueux*, which you will please to direct to be removed into the *Suffolk*, in order to their going to Jamaica.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes
22nd Jan^r 1781

Sir

I had the honor of receiving your Letter dated the 11th January and am sorry for the Accident which happen'd to the *Intrepid* and *Vengeance*, but hope they will be soon refitted for Sea.

I must desire you will give directions for the *Alcmene* to be prepared with all the Dispatch possible to carry my Dispatches to Great Britain, in which Ship Sir Chal-longer Ogle is to return to England.

I must likewise desire that you will order all the Marines belonging to the *Alcmene* to be discharged into the Ships now fitting at English Harbour, taking care that they are only those in Health, and likewise to discharge from the said Ship all the Seamen above 150, in which number of 150 are to be included Officers and Servants, and in their lieu put Invalids from the Hospital giving Captain Brine an Order to land the Said Invalids at the first Kings Port he arrives at agreeable to Custom.

You will likewise give directions, that the said ship *Alcmene* be supplied with Stores just sufficient to carry her to Great Britain and only three Months Provisions.

I must desire you will hasten the *Boreas* when she has

landed the Money to join Captain Thompson of the Hyæna at St: Kitts, whom I have given Orders to cruize for the Protection of the Leeward Islands and the Annoyance of the Public Enemy. You will also hasten the Pachahunta, Renard and Berbuda on the same Service, giving their Captains Orders to put themselves under Captain Thompson's Command. I shall have the honor of writing to you in a few days. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

P S. When the Vigilant is ready, you will please to give Orders for her Captain to take the Fireships under his Convoy and proceed to Windward of the Islands to Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia, he will probably find Sir Samuel Hood cruising with a large Squadron to Windward.

To Commodore Hotham &ca.

From Commodore William Hotham

Vengeance, English Harbour Antigua,
22nd January 1781

Sir

By the Renard which arrived here the 14th I was favoured with your Letters of the 4th and 7th inst: The Sylph also brought me on Saturday last yours of the 16th from Barbadoes.

The Venus with the Renard sailed the 18th for the Station you allotted her, and I mean to continue her and the Sloops there until I receive your further Orders: As the Pennsylvania Pacquet with Rum for the Army which you had directed her to Convoy, is I understand arrived at St: Johns with the Alcmena that is now off this Harbour, in which case that Vessel will proceed with the Vigilant who sails on Wednesday with the two Fireships: should I be misinformed with respect to the arrival of

the Pennsylvania Pacquet, the Venus shall be directed to Convoy her agreeable to your former Instructions.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Rover is retaken by the Regulator Privateer belonging to this Island and carried into St: Kitts. Commodore Laforey has sent the necessary directions for claiming her upon her Condemnation, when I shall take measures for having her brought up here to be appraised.

General Burt has informed Mr. Laforey that the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt have put the direction of the Prisoners in these Islands into his hands, of which I think proper to acquaint you.

Your Orders are delivered to Captain Bett of the Sandwich. I conclude Commodore Laforey informed you of that Ship being a large North Country Cat, calculated as floating Battery, with heavy Metal, drawing little Water, and intended to co-operate with Lord Cornwallis. I have the honor to be &ca.

WM HOTHAM

P S: The Vengeance will heave out the first side tomorrow.

To Admiral Sir. G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay Barbadoes
22nd January 1781

Sir,

I had the honor of your Letter of the 11th Inst. and am sorry for the accident that has happen'd to the Vengeance, but have not a doubt but she will soon be repaired by putting the Masts you propose into her.

As I intend to send the Alcmena to Great Britain with my Dispatches and in which Sir Chaloner Ogle will return to England, I must desire you will hasten her re-

fitting with all possible Dispatch, taking care that she has no more Stores than barely sufficient for that purpose. If time will allow her Upper Works and Bends may be caulked.

As Captain Thompson of the *Hyæna* convoys a Store-ship to English Harbour, I hope the *Amazon* by that means will be speedily refitted, as her service is much wanting.

In a few days I shall have the honor of writing to you more at large, And am with great Regard &ca.

To Commiss^r Laforey
Antigua

G: B: RODNEY

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel, Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
22nd January 1781

Sir

I did myself the honor of writing to you by the *Sylph*, *Lizard* and *Cyclops*, and hope you have received my Letters, tho' I have not heard from you.

The *Intrepid* arrived here the 18th with the Cheek of her Foremast Sprung. I ordered a Survey on it, and the report was, the Mast must come out, as there appeared to be suspicions that the Mast itself might be sprung; I was apprehensive, if it was got out, and found so bad as not to be repaired here, and no Mast here to replace it, the Ship would be quite useless.

I therefore delayed getting it out, being in daily expectation of the Storeships arrival, when a Mast might be found, to replace it should it be found necessary.

Should you approve of its being got out at all events, The *Triumph's* spare Topmast, and the *Prison's Ship's* Foremast will afford length of Shears sufficient to do it, by the *Intrepid* herself.

I have the honor to be Sir &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

To Adm^l Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
23rd Jan^y 1781

Sir

Inclosed I send you the Copy of a Letter I received from the Admiralty together with Rear Adm^l Rowley's Commission, which you will please to cause to be delivered to him, and your Secretary to account for the Fees in the manner mine is therein directed to do:

I am with great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker,
Jamaica

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
23rd Jan^y 1781

Sir

I have sent the Suffolk which has been lately hove down at English Harbour on with the Convoy for Jamaica, and as their Lordships are very pressing in their Orders to me, to have the Single Bottom'd Ships home, have directed her after her present Service to proceed there as fast as possible; I flatter myself you will be pleased to forward her Departure.

I must further desire you will be pleased to hasten the Refitment of the Egmont, and any other Ships of my Squadron that may have reached you and detach them to me as I assure you they are much wanted on this Station.

I am with Great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker
Jamaica

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
23rd Jan^r 1781

Sir

Inclosed I transmit you Orders for the Ships appropriated to take Charge of the Convoy for Jamaica which you will please to hasten as much as the Nature of the Service will admit of. Several of the Trade have been endeavouring to decoy our Men here, tis probable they will be playing the same Game with you, should you detect them therein, pray punish them severely.

You will please to order the Naval Storekeeper for Jamaica now in the *Belliqueux* to have a passage there in the *Suffolk*.

I am with Great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

P S: The Cyclops will want a Foremast, you will please to order one of the Sticks from the Thames to be prepared for that purpose.

To Rear Admiral Drake &ca.

*To the Marquis de Bouillé, Governor-General of the
French Windward Islands*

Sandwich, Barbadoes 25th Jan^r 1781

Sir

Along with Captain Savage and the remaining Officers and Men of his Majesty's Sloop the *Rover*, I have had the Honor of receiving your Excellency's Letter of the 11th Inst.

In the present Cartel I have sent 200 French Prisoners being all the Vessel could contain, giving the preference to those formerly belonging to the *Alcmene* Frigate, and must desire you will please to Order the English Prisoners

still in St: Pierre to be deliver'd into the Charge of my Lieutenant Mr. Bowater who will have the Honor of presenting you with this to be brought back in the same Cartel to St. Lucia: The remainder of the French Prisoners now at Barbadoes shall soon be returned either to Martinique or Guadaloupe.

I perfectly agree with Your Excellency that the Ratification of the Exchange of Officers who are gone Home on either side on their Parole is essentially necessary, and herewith permit the Instrument as stated by you, signed by me on one Part, and accompanying it with a Duplicate which you will please to sign (and send back by the Officer) on the other.

But in regard to the account current of Prisoners, already reciprocally Exchanged between the two Nations since the Commencement of Hostilities, in this part of the World, as I have not the particulars of those already Exchanged from the different English Islands, and those I have received do not agree in point of Numbers with the account specified by your Excellency, I must beg leave to defer subscribing that, 'till I have regular returns from all the Islands, or to propose what I think will be more Methodical, that the same be adjusted and signed by the respective Commissaries or Agents for Prisoners on both sides.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

His Excellency The Marquis de Bouillé &ca.

Exchange of British and French Officers

Barbadoes, 25th January 1781

Account of the English and French Officers
Prisoners of War, returned on their Parole for Exchange

English Officers
proposed to be exchange[d]
for the opposite French
Officers

French Officers
proposed to be exchanged
for the opposite English
Officers

Lewis Robertson
Captⁿ of the Weazle

Bernard de Marign[y]
Capitaine des Vaiss^x du
Roi, et de la Frigate la
Fortunée

Rich^d Dacres
Captⁿ of the Ceres

Le Cheva^{er} de la Galisson-
naire Lieut^t des Vaiss^x et
Capitaine de la Frigate
le Blanche

Lewis Robertson
Captⁿ of the Fortune
(taken 2nd time) having
before had permissⁿ to
serve

Le Cheva^{er} de Khue
Lieut^t des Vaiss^x et de la
Frigate la Fortunée

George Hart
1st Lieut^t of Marines on
board the Weazle Sloop

Le Chevalier de Sancé
3rd Lieut^t of Artillery

John Moore
Captⁿ 54th Regim^t

Bernard de Marigny
Enseigne des Vaiss^x et de
la Frigate la Fortunée

Thos: Banks
Captⁿ 70th Regim^t

Mons^r de Clesnau
Enseigne de Nois, et de la
Frigate la Blanche

James Keith Hopegood
Lieut^t of the Fortune

Mons^r de Mallavaux, Ens^e
de Vai, Comm^t la Cor-
vette, la Sphinx

English Officers
(continued)Robert Alex^r Montgomery
Lieut^t of the 54th Regi-
mentJohn Barnwell
Ensign of the Land
ForcesThos: Baynes
Midsⁿ of the CeresGeo^e Kinsey
Midsⁿ of the CeresMontagu Cholmley
Midsⁿ D^oRalph Smith
Midsⁿ CeresSam^l Coold
Midsⁿ CeresReatshow
Clerk, CeresJn^o Fachlie
Purser, CeresDav^d Carnil Young
Purser of the WeazleFrench Officers
(continued)Le Chev^r Boulainvilliers
Garde de Marine de la
Frigate la FortunéMons^r Delourmel,
Garde de Marine de la
Frigate la FortunéeDe Bellot
Garde de Marine, la
BlancheDe Ranuvarn
D^o la BlancheHelies,
Lieut des Frigates Aux-
iliaires et de la Frigate la
FortunéeL'Anglois
Lieut^t des Frigates Aux-
iliaires et de la Frigate la
FortunePauret,
Lieut^t des Frigates Aux-
iliaires et de la Corvette
L'Ellis [*sic* for *Elise*]Onne
Lieut. des Frigates Aux-
iliaires et de la Frigate la
FortunéeRichard
Lieut. des Frigates Aux-
iliaires et de la Frigate la
BlancheRoussel
Lieut. des Frigates Aux^{es}
et de la Frigate la Sphinx

English Officers
(continued)

Rich^d Cudlipp
Mid. Ceres

Banbury [Brackenbury]
Captⁿ 54th Regim^t

Jas: Robinson
Purser, Fortune

Jas: Loftus
Act^s Lieut^t Fortune

Jas: Boyle
Mid: Fortune

Fitzgerald
Mid. Fortune

Jn^o Cumb^d Hughes
Mid

James Eloy
Mid.

Wm: Chambers
Mid.

Dav^d Wyllie
Mast^r Rover

French Officers
(continued)

La Licore
Lieut. des Frigates Aux^{es}
et de la Corvette L'Ellis

Le C^{te} de Noyelle
Capt^e a la Suite du Reg^t
de la Guadeloupe

Dupont
Lieut. des Frigates Aux^{es}
et de la Corvette L'Ellis

Yssouvraid
Lieut^t des Frigates Aux^{es}
et de la Corvette la
Sphinx

Morin
Lieut^t des Frigates Auxil^{es}
et de la Corvette la
Sphinx

Duwary
Lieut: des Frigates Aux^{les}
et de la Corvette la
Sphinx

Angé
Lieut^t des Frigates Auxil^{es}
et de la Corvett la
Sphinx

Legres
Lieut. des Frigates Auxil^{es}
et de la Corvette [blank]

La Bossieu
Lieut. des Frigates Aux^{es}
et de la Corvette la
Sphinx

D'Hautreal
Aide Major de St. Vin-
cent, Capitaine de Vais-
seaux

English Officers
(continued)French Officers
(continued)Nicholas Beaker
Mid.Oliver Doulin [Dowling]
Lieuten^t of 22nd Regi-
mentThos. Will ¹
Midⁿ of the CeresLapis
CapitaineLe Chevalier de Petit
Houars
CapitaineGuyot ¹
Lieut. des Frigates Aux-
iliares et de la Frigate
la Fortunée

We the Commanders in Chief of all His Majesty's English Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed at Barbadoes, the Leeward Islands and on the Seas Adjacent, and We the Commander in Chief of the French Windward Islands, do Certify to have returned the Parole given by the Officers above named, Whom we have exchanged, and who are hereby reciprocally permitted to serve.

Barbadoes, 25th January 1781

G: B: RODNEY

LE MARQUIS DE BOUILLIE

To the Agent for Prisoners of War at Barbados

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
25th Jan^r 1781

Sir

I desire you will give Orders that One Hund^d French Prisoners are sent on board His Majesty's Ship the Cyclops by day break tomorrow, taking care that you send none but those that are health[y]. I am &c.

G: B: RODNEY

To Alex^r Scott, Agent for Prisoners

¹ Added from the list in vol. 9 of the Rodney MSS. in the Public Record Office, London.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
25th Jan^y 1781

Sir

The Gibraltar and Princessa I send to be put under your Command, you will please to employ them in the Squadron that blockades Fort Royal, and likewise the Resolution, 'till such time as the Jamaica Convoy has sailed and got three or Four Days to Leeward, when I must desire you will dispatch the Resolution and Triumph to join Sir Samuel Hood who is cruizing agreeable to the enclosed Rendezvous.

When General Vaughan and myself have settled our Plan, you may expect me to join you with all possible dispatch; In the mean time I must desire you will be very attentive in blockading Fort Royal Bay to prevent the Enemy's Squadron sailing, and letting me have the honor to hear frequently from you by the small Frigates. I am Sir with great regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake &ca.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
25th Jan^y 1781

Sir

It being necessary that the Alcmena should join me at Barbadoes with all the dispatch possible in order to carry my Dispatches to Great Britain, I must desire that you will order her Captain to repair without loss of time to Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes. You will please not to order any Invalids on board her, as she must receive those that are here. When the Vigilant is ready, I must desire you will please to order Sir George Home, to repair to

St: Kitts and receive on board the Ship he Commands such Cannon and Ordnance Stores, that General Cristie may send on board, when he has so done he is to make the best of his way to Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia, where he will receive further Orders.

I hope as the Storeships are arrived at Antigua, that the Amazon will soon be refitted and the Fore Mast of the Cyclops, either made serviceable or a new one. 'tis necessary that Ship joins me as soon as the nature of the service will admit, as she is my repeater.

I am Sir with great Regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Commod: Hotham &ca.

From Commander Milham Ponsonby

Fly, Cutter, Tobago
25th Jan^r 1781

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you that I arrived at this Island with the Ships under my Convoy on Sunday last, and saw them all safe, into their destined Ports. You may depend upon it Sir George, I shall do every thing in my power, with the Advice of the Governor, for the protection of this Island.

As I have been under the disagreeable necessity of discharging the Surgeon for Mutiny and attempting to persuade the People that they were not Subject to Naval Discipline, And as we have several Sick on board I must beg leave Sir George you will be pleased to appoint a Surgeon to the Cutter, who will be furnished with Medicines by the Owners. I am &ca.

M: PONSONBY

To Admiral Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart:

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
27th January 1781

Sir

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 22nd Inst. giving an Account of the Intrepids arrival, and the dangerous state of her Foremast.

If you cannot, by taking off the Cheek, and putting on a New One, make the Mast serviceable, you will find the Main Mast for a 64 Gun Ship at the Carenage, that is faulty about 18 feet from the head, and by reducing it to the length of the Intrepids Foremast (which will take away 12 Feet from the head) I apprehend it may then make a Mast for, by taking of the Hoops and reducing it in length, the Defect will then be above the Lower Rigging. I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake &ca.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes,
28th Jan^r 1781

Sir

Enclosed I have the honor to send your Excellency the Letter found in the Dutch Boston Man that arrived this Morning, whose Vessel I have seized as it is an American, the Master being a Boston Man and of Course a Traitor, the Vessel shall be delivered into the Charge of the Customs to be disposed of as you may think fit.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Governour Cunningham &ca.

To Commodore Sir Chaloner Ogle

Sandwich, Barbadoes 28th Jan^r 1781

Sir

Whereas I expect every Hour the arrival of one of His Majesty's Frigates from England with Colonel Ferguson adjutant General of the Army on board: I must desire you will please to Order her to proceed with him to Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia without a Moments loss of time, where he will either find me or Orders for his further proceedings: I am &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Commodore Sir: Chal^r Ogle &ca.

From the Navy Board

Navy Office 29th January 1781

Sir,

We have received your Letter of the 12th December last, and acquaint you that the George the Third and Grand Duke storeships, are now loaded at Wolwich, and will sail with the next Convoy, having 1600 or 1700 Tons of Stores in for the Ships under your Command, amongst which is a large parcel of made Masts, and the Union of about 300 Tons will also sail with the Convoy with Stores that were intended to be lodged at Barbadoes for the same use. We are &ca.

J: WILLIAMS

GEO: MARSH

WM: PALMER

P S: More Stores are providing which will be sent by the Convoy that follows this.

To Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, 29th January 1781

Sir

His Majesty's Service requiring that every Ship and Frigate be fitted without a moments delay, I must desire you will not suffer any of them to sail from Antigua till further Orders, and that the Intrepid and Cyclop's Fore Mast be kept in, and those Ships ready to join me at a Moments warning.

I must desire that not a Boat be permitted to sail from any part of Antigua: His Majesty's Service requiring the strictest secrecy. You will hear from me in a few hours.

I am with real regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Commodore Hotham &ca.

*To William Matthew Burt, Governor of the
Leeward Islands*

Sandwich, 29th January, 1781

Sir,

Having received an Express from England of infinite Consequence, and which makes it necessary that an Embargo shall be immediately laid at Antigua.

I must desire that you will be pleased to order the same, so as if possible no Vessel or Boat may sail from thence to any port whatsoever.

Your Excellency may depend on hearing further from me in a few hours.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Burt &ca.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia

30th Jan^y 1781

Sir

I am this moment favour'd with yours of the 21st Inst:, and am happy to find His Majesty's Sloop Rover is retaken, and that she was commanded by that Officer who behaved so extremely Ill to Captain Savage, by demanding his Purse out of his Pocket, it is necessary such behaviour should be known.

It is strange that the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt should write to me so differently to Mr: Burt, to me 'tis totally indifferent, more especially now as the Cartel with France does not extend to the West Indies, and no exchange shall be made in these Seas without my approbation. The Exchange I lately made was Man for Man and no more. The French Ships are in the greatest want of Men, therefore it will be necessary to detain all French Prisoners except those which I sent from Barbadoes to be exchanged in lieu of an equal number that was promised to be sent from Guadaloupe which you will please to acquaint Mr. Burt with, as likewise with the great distress the Enemy are in want for Men.

I shall be in your Neighbourhood in a few days, where you will hear more fully from me.

I am with great regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Comm^r Laforey &ca.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia

30th January 1781

Sir

I am this moment favoured with yours of the 22nd inst: by the Sylph Sloop. I am very glad the Venus and

Renard have sailed for their Station, should they be returned, I must desire you will give directions (as like to all other Ships) to hold themselves in momentary readiness to join me, as you may expect in a few hours to receive very particular Orders from me.

General Burt having informed Mr. Laforey that the Commissioners for the Sick and Hurt have put the direction of the Prisoners in his hands is new to me, they having taken no notice of it to me, however it is quite indifferent to me as no Exchange shall take place in these Seas without my Approbation, or a French Squadron be put again in a Condition to Sail as was the Case with the French Squadron under Mons^r Le Mothe Picquet.

I have the honor to be &ca.

To Commodore Hotham &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay St: Lucia
30th Jan^r 1781

Dear Sir,

I have been favor'd with your Letter late last Night. General Vaughan is with me, we are going instantly upon an Expedition of some Consequence. Rear Admiral Drake with his Squadron who will be left here will have Orders not only to annoy the Enemy, but to give you every assistance in his power towards the defence of the Island, and to land the Troops when you desire it. He will likewise have directions to take or destroy the Privateers you mention, and will give you notice when he sends any Man of War to Barbadoes. I hope I shall have the pleasure of finding you in perfect health on my return to St: Lucia, and beg that you will be assured I am with real truth and sincerity &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l St: Leger &ca.

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Sandwich, Gros Islet Bay, St: Lucia
30th January 1781

Sir

I embrace the earliest opportunity of informing your Excellency that we arrived yesterday Morning in this Bay, and that as the General and myself purpose Sailing this afternoon on the intended Expedition, I think there is no necessity for the same being any longer kept a Secret, and that the Embargo may be taken off, unless your Excellency has any other reasons for its Continuance.

And having received Instructions from their Lordships in consequence of a Petition from the Committe[e] of West India Merchants to send the first Convoy to Europe the latter End of April, I think it necessary to acquaint your Excellency, therewith, that you may at such time as you shall think requisite, communicate the same to whom it may concern within your Government.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To His Excellency General Cunningham &ca.

*To William Matthew Burt, Governor of the Leeward
Islands*

Sandwich, 31st January 1781

Sir,

Inclosed I have the honor to send by His Majesty's Ship *Terrible*, Dispatches which I received by Express from His Majesty's Secretary of State. I am now on my way with His Majesty's Fleet under my Command to attack the Dutch Islands of Eustatius and St: Martins. I am sure I have no occasion to point out to your Ex-

cellency the necessity of this being a most profound Secret for a few days, and how highly proper it will be the Enemy may obtain no knowledge of our design, for which reason I must request your Excellency will be pleased to order an immediate Embargo at Antigua. Your Orders for the other Island may be forwarded by any of the Ships of War at Antigua.

As the Embargo will only be for a few days, it can be of no detriment to His Majesty's trading Subjects.

You will oblige me very much if you can procure any Persons acquainted with the present Situation of Eustatia, its Forts, Forces, and some good Pilots.

Rear Admiral Hood with a Squadron under His Command by the time your Excellency receives this Letter, will be Cruizing between Montserrat and Nevis. I myself am following with the remainder of the Fleet with the Troops, Bombs, and Fire Ships; and fully intend on my return to pay my personal respects to you, and accept for a few days your Kind Invitation.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To His Excellency Governour Burt &ca.

From Commodore William Hotham

Vengeance, English Harbour, Antigua

31st January 1781

Sir,

I did myself the honor of writing to you on the 23d Inst: by Sir George Home, who sailed hence the day following with the two Fireships and the Pennsylvania Packet under his Convoy: I have since been favoured with your Letter of the 22nd by the Boreas, that left St: Johns Road the 28th to join Captain Thompson at St: Kitts who passed this Island with the Trade the 25th having left the Storeship here.

The Star and Berbuda arrived on Sund^y afternoon. they have brought Captain Hawkins, (who I am sorry to say is dangerously ill) and 65 of the Deal Castle's Crew from St. Thomas's such part of them as are in health and fit for Service, I shall embark on board the Alcmene in the place of those you directed to be taken from her.

By the Cyclops which came in the same day, I am favour'd with your Letter of the 25th and every possible dispatch shall be used in fitting her. The Vengeance has been hove down and her Leaks stopped.

The Intrepid also arrived the 29th by order of Rear Admiral Drake, her Foremast having been found defective; When she is ready for Sea, I shall direct Captain Molloy, the Vigilant being sailed before the receipt of your Letter, to proceed in her room for St. Kitts, for the Ordnance Stores therein mention'd, part of which were brought from thence in the Alcmene, and are sent in her to Barbadoes, General Christie judging that to be the place they were intended for.

The Pachaunta returned from her Cruize yesterday, having sprung a fresh Leak.

I am concerned to acquaint you, that Governour Burt died of a Violent Fever on Friday last [January 26] after a few days illness.

I have the honor to be &ca.

WM: HOTHAM

To Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart: &ca.

To Commodore William Hotham

Sandwich, 31st Jan^y 1781

Sir

I must desire you will please to order every Ship that is ready, particularly the Arm'd Ship Sandwich and the Alcmene (should they not be sailed) immediately to join

the Squadron under Sir Samuel Hood Cruizing between Montserrat and Nevis, but in case of not meeting him or me there, to proceed to Basse Terre Road, St: Christophers, or at St: Eustatius.

You will please as much as possible to prevent all Vessels and Boats whatsoever from standing to Leeward.

I have the honor to be &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Commodore Hotham &ca.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sandwich, 31st Jan^y 1781

Sir,

As it is of the greatest consequence that all Inter-courses should be immediately stopped with the Island of St: Eustatius, at which place a Squadron of 5 Sail of Dutch Ships is hourly expected, I should be glad that you will proceed with the five Ships of your Squadron named in the Margin,¹ and station them between Montserrat and Nevis, in such a manner as may appear to you most conducive to the Public Service, stopping and detaining every Vessel of what Nation soever, that may attempt to pass towards Eustatia, and agreeable to the enclosed Order make Prizes of all Dutch Ships whatever, taking care to detain them with you till I join you with the rest of the Squadron, which you may be assured will be as soon as possible. I have ordered the Terrible to Antigua with Dispatches to Governour Burt, and Commodore Hotham, with directions instantly to send down every Ship that may be ready with as many Pilots acquainted with Statia as they can possible procure. Captain Ferguson has orders to acquaint Mr. Hotham with your Station. When I would wish you to proceed with

¹ [Marginal note:] Barfleur, Alfred, Alcide, Invincible, Monarch, Sybil.

your Squadron, I will hoist a Red Flag pierced with White at the Mizen Peek. Captain Harvey of the Panther has orders to cruize to Leeward of Montserrat, you will please to take him under your Command, and if you think it necessary send a Frigate to Montserrat to desire the President will order an Embargo to be laid at that Island for four days, His Majesty's Service requiring it. I have no occasion to say more on this Subject as I am confident you will do every thing in your Power towards procuring proper Intelligence.

I am with great regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood B^t &ca.

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Russel, 31st January 1781

Sir,

Captain Haswell of His Majesty's Ship the Russel, finding his health so bad, from the effect of this Climate, that he is under the necessity of requesting your leave to go to England to endeavour to restore it, I shall be obliged to you to appoint Captain Savage, late of His Majesty's Ship the Rover to succeed Captain Haswell.

I have the honor to be &ca.

F: S: DRAKE

To Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Captain Robert Haswell to Rear Admiral Drake

Russel off Fort Royal Bay

31st January 1781

Sir

I find myself so much impaired by the effect of the Climate, that I am under the necessity of requesting you

will please to indulge me with Leave to go to England, for the benefit and reestablishment of my health.

I have the honor to be with great respect &ca.

ROBERT HASWELL

To Rear Adm^l Drake &ca.

*From Sir Richard Hughes, Commissioner of the Navy
at Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Careening Yard at Halifax
1st February 1781

Sir,

The Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships lately at this Port, having directed the Garland to take under her Convoy, a Transport, by which, I am endeavouring to comply with your Requisition of the [eighth] of October. I hope they will be able to sail from hence in four or five days. I have done myself the honor to forward to you, by this Opportunity, all the Spars and Lumber Boards that can be spared, from the Current Service of this Port, so that the Transport will come to you quite loaded, and I have likewise procured with great difficulty, the Frames of two Houses for Hospitals which will cover together a space of One Hundred Feet in length, and Twenty in breadth, and, I apprehend that the Smaller Spars, and some of the Lumber will enable you, if you should think proper, to erect other buildings of the same kind. I am therefore in hopes, that my proceedings in this matter will be honor'd with your approbation. Inclosed is an Invoice of the Cargo of the Transport; and, I have the honor to remain with great Esteem, and Regard &ca.

RICH^d HUGHES

To Adm^l Sir. G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca.

From Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Admiralty Office, 1st Feb^y 1781

Sir,

The Navy Board having in their Letter of the 30th of last Month represented to my Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Admiralty the great Inconvenience which arises from the Officers of His Majesty's Ships in Foreign Parts impressing Men from the Army Victualers & Transports and that it will be impossible for them to conduct the Transport business unless some effectual means are used to prevent such Interruption; And they having therefore requested that strict Orders be given to prevent such Irregularities in future, and also for discouraging the Entry of Men from Transports in general, the same appearing to them to be the only effectual method of Keeping the Transports and Victualers fit and ready for service. I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to give the necessary Orders to the several Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command not to impress in future any Men from such Transports and Victualers, and to discourage as much as possible the Entry of any Men from Vessels so employed. I am &ca.

PHIL: STEPHENS

To Adm^l Sir: G: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Six O Clock, PM., Sandwich at Sea,
2nd February 1781

Sir

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter by Lord Charles Fitzgerald, you cannot join me too soon as it will be absolutely necessary that part of the Squadron should be in the road of Eustatia before day light to-

morrow in order to prevent the Enemy's Escape from that Island, and that some Ships should persue the Convoy that is supposed to have sailed last Night or this Morning. I shall stand immediately to the Northward towards St: Kitts, and hope we shall join before Morning.

I have the honor to be with real truth and Sincerety
D^r Sir

G: B: RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood &ca.

From Commodore William Hotham

Vengeance, English Harbour, Antigua
2nd February 1781

Sir,

My Letter of the 31st past which accompanies this, will give you information of the occurrences here till that period.

On the 1st Inst. by the Triton that sailed again the same Night, I was honor'd with your two Letters dated the 29th and one of the 30th January, and have in consequence given directions for such Ships and Frigates as will soonest be compleated, to have the preference in their refitment.

The Foremast of the Intrepid, with the Fore and Mizen Mast of the Cyclops were taken out and condemn'd before the receipt of your abovementioned Letters, neither the Star Brig or Pacahunta can proceed to Sea before they are hove down, which will be soon effected. The Berbuda sailed yesterday to join Captⁿ Thompson of the Hyæna at St: Kitts, and I appointed William Brown Carpenters Mate of the Intrepid to Act as Carpenter of that Sloop till your pleasure be known. The Sandwich at St: Johns is ordered not to permit any Vessels or Boats whatever to depart from that Road.

Your Public Letter addressed to Governor Burt, I

thought proper upon his Decease to transmit to the President of His Majesty's Council, but your private one I have returned: It may not here be improper to acquaint you, Sir, in order to prevent delay, that from the Demise of Mr. Burt, the Chief Government of all these Islands is vested in the President of the Council of St: Kitts until a new Governour is made, And I take the Liberty to mention this circumstance because I find that no Public Business of any Consequence can be transacted here without his Concurrence and Authority, as will appar by the Letters I have the honor to enclose from the President of this Island.

Mr: Laforey and I have reason to think that the late Governour must have mistaken the Sense of the Sick and Hurt Office in his Idea of their having put the direction of the Prisoners in his hands, their Agent here not having received any Instructions to that Effect, which led me to apply to the President for a Copy of such Correspondence as they might have held with Mr. Burt upon the occasion.

Notwithstanding what is mentioned in my Letter of the 31st I have since the receipt of yours by the Triton thought proper to leave the Complement of the Alcmena entire, in case you shall find it necessary to employ her upon Service.

I have the honor to be &c.

WM HOTHAM

To Admiral Sir. G: B: Rodney Bart. &c.

From Commodore William Hotham

Vengeance, English Harbour, Antigua,
3rd Feb^r 1781

Sir

Your two Letters of the 31st past sent by Captain Ferguson of the Terrible, were brought me late last

Night, together with one from himself, acquainting me that he was to sail again the same Evening with the Sandwich Armed Ship. I should otherwise have directed a proportion of the Troops to be embarked in them that are intended to be taken from this Island, and as the Ships here become ready, I shall order them to call at St: Johns for that purpose, except the Alcmene, which I expect will sail tomorrow, and is sufficiently loaded with Artillery Stores, the speedy arrival of them may be an Object of greater importance, than the want of the few Men she would have been able to carry with their Baggage.

I shall endeavour without causing suspicion to procure the Pilots you point out, and I should judge none better than some of the Masters of the small Tenders which accompany the Alcmene! Your Directions concerning the disposal of any Dutch Vessels that may be brought in, shall be attended to.

I have only to add that every possible exertion shall be used to get the Ships to Sea, and as I judge it to be your intention that I should proceed in the Vengeance, my self, I shall accordingly do so, unless I receive Orders to the contrary, and hope she will very soon be ready after the Intrepid and Cyclops are dispatched. From the number Sick on board the Vengeance I have ordered the Deal Castle's Men from the Alcmene to her.

I have the honor to be &ca.

WM HOTHAM

To Adm^l Sir: Geo: B: Rodney Bart. &ca.

To Captain Stair Douglas

Sandwich, St: Eustatius

4th Feb^r 1781

Sir,

I have received your Letter relative to your Ships firing Yesterday without my Orders or Signal for that purpose.

It might have been easily perceived by the whole Fleet, that the Resolution was anchored in such a manner, as not only to force the said Frigate to surrender, but likewise if she was obliged by the obstinacy of the Dutch Captain to fire, the few shot she might be compelled to expend would not hurt any of His Majesty's Ships.

Your, and the other Ships in shore, were anchored to batter the place, had there been occasion, and I had made a Signal for that purpose.

Your Ship firing in the manner she did, not only endangered the Lives of the Men on board other of His Majesty's Ships, but was an Insult to all order and Discipline, however you may be assured that I have great pleasure to hear you was not concerned in such a breach of Discipline, but that it was owing to the disobedience of your Men. I must desire you will endeavour to detect and punish the Delinquents, and read a Lecture to your Officers and Ship's Company of Silence, and their paying implicit obedience to your Orders. Two essential Articles almost forgot by the Inferior Officers and Men. It must be restored, or the British Navy will be without Discipline.

You may easily imagine Sir what I must have felt at the time the firing commenced, and how much it must have hurt me to observe in the Sight of the Fleet, Army, (and an Island which a few minutes before had submitted to his Majesty's Arms,) such a wanton display of the Slackness of Discipline in a British Fleet. Trust it will never happen again, it is my Duty to prevent it, and no Consideration whatever shall induce me to over-

look a breach of Discipline in the Fleet I have the honor to Command.

You are sensible the Captain of every Ship is responsible for the Discipline of that Ship, and I am convinced from the long time I have had the honor of your Acquaintance as a Man of honor, and the Knowledge I have had of you as a good Officer, the firing must have commenced without your Orders and owing to the inattention of your Officers.

I have the honor to be with real regard &ca.

G: B: RODNEY

To Captain Douglas
of His Majesty's Ship Prince William

LETTER-BOOK OF LORD RODNEY
ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE

DECEMBER 10, 1781 – SEPTEMBER 21, 1782

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant December 10th, 1781.

Sir,

I must desire you will Please to acquaint their Lordships that every dispatch possible is making to get the Squadron under my Command to Sea but such has been the Weather as to prevent all communication with Spithead for some days past however they may be assured that not one Moment shall be lost. I have the honour to be Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Admiral Sir Thomas Pye

Arrogant Spithead Dec^r 10th, 1781.

Sir,

Having this moment receiv'd the inclosed Letter from Captⁿ Balfour I instantly dispatched it to you & as the Subject is of the Utmost Consequence to His Majesty's Service, I flatter myself it will merit your immediate Attention

I am with the greatest Respect

G. B. RODNEY

Adm^l Sir Thos Pye

*To Captain Henry Martin, Commissioner of the Navy
at Portsmouth*

Arrogant Spithead Dec^r 10th, 1781.

Sir,

Major General Mathews having requested that His Baggage and Horses which are absolutely necessary &

not to be had in the West Indies, may be received on board His Majesty's Ship he is going in which must at all Times be very inconvenient and at this Juncture impossible to be complied with.

I must request you will be pleased to Order a Transport to be fitted up with all the Expedition possible to receive the above Horses & Baggage in Order to her Sailing with the Convoy Provided she cannot be got ready to proceed with His Majesty's Squadron under My Command. I am

G. B. RODNEY

Henry Martin Esq^r
Commissioner of His M. Navy
Portsmouth

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Spithead Dec^r 11th 1781

Sir,

The Weather this Day having proved tolerably moderate every dispatch possible is making to get the Squadron ready for Sea.

I have the Honour to be with great regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To the Earl of Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty

Portsmouth Dec^r 11th, 1781

My Dear Lord,

What I told you in London has proved too true, the Squadron far from being ready, and notwithstanding I have not lost one single moment 'twill be a few Days before it will be ready to sail. What might not have been done, if the Squadron under Kempenfelt had been ap-

pointed to have gone with me, it might have been back in time to have acted in the proper Season in Europe.

My Son [George] will tell you, how my time has been employed since my arrival, the backwardness of every thing, the slowness of their Motions astonishes me. I have rous'd them, and hope in a few Days, every thing will be compleat; but I hope the Formidable will not be suffered to be delayed or some other ninety Gun Ship hasten'd to join me. much depends on three Deckers, can they be better employed than in all probability destroying the naval power of france.

Pardon this short Letter, and permit me to assure your Lordship that I shall always continue to be with the utmost Gratitude

Your faithful and most obedient humble Servant

G: B. RODNEY

My Son waits upon you with this Letter he can inform you of every thing

L^d Sandwich

To John Robinson, M.P.

Portsmouth Dec^r 11, 1781

My Dear Sir,

In obedience to your Commands I send my Son to do his duty in parliament; he will inform you, that instead of the Squadron being ready, as was reported, not one Ship is so, and that every Moment since my arrival has been employed in hastening their equipment. I cou'd have wished that the Squadron under Admiral Kempenfelt, had been ordered on the more important Service of the West Indies, instead of the new manned Ships ordered to go with me, none of which are well or properly manned. this I think it necessary (in confidence) to tell you, and that you will of course inform my noble friend, Lord North, that his influence may prevail in hastening the *Formidable*, & I hope the *Duke* to join me in the

West Indies, with all possible dispatch, for those two three decked ships may prove of the utmost Importance and may decide the fate of the War in favour of Great Britain, surely the best manned Ships belonging to the western Squadron shou'd have been sent with me, indeed if the whole had gone, the Business might have been most effectually performed, and that Squadron have returned before the Season for acting in Europe. tis very doubtful if Digby's Squadron can join me, as orders are but just sent for that purpose, and at this Season tis extremely difficult to get upon the Coast of America. This Letter my D^r Sir, is in confidence to you. I will do my duty let me have what Squadron I may, & hope to have an opportunity of bringing the Enemy to a general Battle.

Adieu my D^r Sir excuse this hurry as I have scarce one Moment to myself. Beleive me to be with real truth & sincerity

Your faithful & most obedient humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

John Robinson Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Spithead Dec^r 12, 1781

Sir,

I have the Honour of your Letter of the 10th Inst. informing me, it is their Lordships directions, that as, I had hoisted my Flag on board His Majesty's Ship Arrogant, to order Captⁿ Savage to return his Commission for the Conqueror, that it might be cancelled. I therefore inclose it agreeable to their Lordships directions for that purpose. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir,

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Spithead Dec^r 13, 1781.

10 A M By Express

Sir,

I desire you will please to inform their Lordships, that I shall get under weigh with His Majesty's Squadron under my Command on the turn of the Tide, at 1 P M and use every Exertion in my power to be as soon as possible at my station. I have the Honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

Philip Stephens Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant in Causand Bay Dec^r 17th, 1781

[Cawsand Bay, Cornwall]

Sir,

If the Marlborough is ready for Sea I must desire you will please to order her to join me, if possible to morrow morning.

I am persuaded no Effort will be neglected t'wards her joining me, before I sail but if that shou'd prove impossible, she must follow me with the Convoy. I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Vice Adm^l Milbank
Plymouth

G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant in Causand Bay Dec^r 17, 1781

Sir,

I am this Instant favoured with your Letter, and its inclosures. I am much obliged to you, for the communica-

tion of your intelligence relative to Adm^l Kempenfelt, and the french fleet. I am sorry you shou'd give yourself the trouble to make me any returns, relative to the port, as I shall by no means interfere therewith, as I am perfectly satisfied, that every Exertion will be made, in getting the Ships ready for sea, which are intended to be under my Command, with such of which, as may be ready, I shall proceed to Sea, to morrow morning, or the moment the Wind and Weather will permit, which being the case, though I shou'd be glad of the Pleasure of seeing you on board the Arrogant, I can by no means under such uncertainty, especially if the Weather shou'd be bad, expect you so far out, at this Season. I have the Honor to be with great regard, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Milbank
Plymouth

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant in Causand Bay 17 Dec^r 1781.
At 6 P M Wind S.W.

Sir,

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships that I am this Moment, anchor'd with the Squadron under my Command in this Bay. the Wind being at S. W the Weather looking very dirty, and a whole Tide of Flood coming on I thought it more proper, to anchor for this Night, than run the risk of being drove again to the Eastward, which must have been the case had I continued in the Channel this Night.

I shall immediately take the Repulse & Nonsuch under my Command and shou'd the Marlborough be in a Condition to join me, I shall leave the Repulse and Formidable to follow with the Convoy. I purpose putting to Sea to morrow morning at day Light if the Weather

is such as will admit thereof, and their Lordships may depend upon it, that not one moment shall be lost in putting their orders into Execution, and that no Wind shall deter me, from endeavouring to get out of the Channel, provided the Weather is such, as will enable the Squadron under my Command to carry a proper sail for that purpose.

I have the honor to be with great regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay 18 Dec^r 1781.
Noon Wind S W Blows hard

Sir,

I fully intended, and had given orders accordingly to all the Captains under my Command to have put to Sea at Day Light this Morning, but the Weather being so bad & the Wind blowing hard at S W. has prevented it.

Their Lordships may depend upon it that Night or Day, when the Weather moderates, I will not lose one single Moment in putting their orders into Execution.

I have this moment receiv'd from Vice Admiral Milbank, your Letter of the 16th Instant by Express which gives me the highest satisfaction, and I have not a doubt, but the force of His Majesty's fleet in the West Indies will on my arrival there, be such as to enable me to defeat the designs of His Majesty's Enemies and I hope, answer our sanguine Expectations, my utmost abilities shall be exerted, towards obtaining so glorious a purpose. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir,

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

*To Captain Paul Henry Ourry, Commissioner of the
Navy at Plymouth*

Arrogant Causand Bay 18 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

Captain Dumeresque of His Majesty's Ship the Repulse having represented to me that the Company of the said ship refuse sailing unless they are first paid, I must desire you will please to cause her to be immediately paid accordingly that His Majesty's Service may not at this Critical Juncture receive any Delay therefrom. I have the Honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Commissioner Ourry
Plymouth

To Digory Tonkin, Agent Victualer at Plymouth

Arrogant in Causand Bay 18 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

As the Expeditious victualling and watering His Majesty's Ship Formidable in Order to her being in a Condition to proceed to Sea as soon as possibly may be, at this critical Juncture of the utmost Consequence to the Publick Service.

I cannot do otherwise than in the most pressing Manner, to urge her being compleated accordingly firmly trusting that every Exertion in your Power will be used for that Purpose.

I am Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

To Digory Tonkin Esq^r
Agent Victualler at Plymouth

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant in Causand Bay 19 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

It being of the utmost consequence to His Majesty's Service that the Formidable shou'd be compleated with all Possible dispatch, I have not a doubt but you will be so obliging to order every assistance for so desirable a purpose.

I have the Honor to be with real regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Milbank

*To Captain Paul Henry Ourry, Commissioner of the
Navy at Plymouth*

Arrogant in Causand Bay 19 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

As it is of the utmost consequence at this particular Juncture that His Majesty's Ship the Formidable shou'd be compleated with all the Expedition Possible

I must desire you will be pleased to give directions for her having the Preference therein to all other ships whatsoever.

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

Paul Ourry Esq^r

To Digory Tonkin, Agent Victualer at Plymouth

Arrogant in Causand Bay 19 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

As it is of the utmost Consequence that the Crew of His Majesty's Ships under my Command going on a

foreign Service shou'd be supply'd with fresh Provisions as long as possible, I must desire you will send a proper Quantity out to them regularly as long as the Westerly Wind may detain them Here in the Sound, and as it will be highly improper to trust the men belonging to Ships Boats on Shore, I must further desire you will send it off in your own Vessels with a Clerk to receive the Purser's Receipts & settle with them for the same. I am Sir
Your most humble Servant

D. Tonkin Esq^r Plymouth

G. B. RODNEY

P. S As the Formidable is wanted for immediate Service I must desire that the utmost dispatch may be used in Victualling her

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

[Marginal note:] CANCELLED

Arrogant in Causand Bay 19 Dec^r 1781

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship Conqueror under my Command being badly manned, and Captain Balfour having receiv'd twelve Men from the Diligente just before we sail'd from Spithead who on Account of their being under sized, will be of little or no use on board so large a ship, but who may be serviceable in smaller, and whom on that Account I shou'd have apply'd to Sir Thos. to have exchanged had time permitted, I must beg leave as that cou'd not be done, I am to request you will please to order the said twelve men to be exchanged for stouter body'd Men, with the usual proportion of able Seamen among them, as I am convinced of other Captains that the Conqueror is very weakly manned.

I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir,

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

Vice Admiral Milbank

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant in Causand Bay 20th Dec^r 1781
At Noon

Sir,

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships that the Wind blew too hard at S. W. yesterday to attempt putting to Sea. This day it is perfectly calm and every thing preparing towards leaving this Port, when any wind offers.

The Marlborough wou'd have been down in the Sound had there been any wind, but I will not wait for her one single moment, but execute the orders intrusted to me with every dispatch possible. Captⁿ Harwood of His Majesty's Ship Medway who arrived from the Westward informed me that he observed in the Enemy's fleet that they had five sail of three Decked Ships.

I cou'd wish their Lordships wou'd please to give orders to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica that the London and Sandwich shou'd join me if the situation of Affairs shou'd be such as to render such a Junction necessary, upon my making application to him for that purpose.

I am sure I need not point out to their Lordships the necessity of such a Junction shou'd the Enemy's five Sail of three Deckers be bound to the West Indies.

The Formidable tho' hastening with all possible dispatch will not be ready for some days not one moment will I stay for her as I have not a doubt but their Lordships will hasten her after me with all the dispatch possible.

I have the honour to be with great regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay 21st Dec^r 1781

At 3 O'Clock P M

Sir,

Early this Morning I was Honour'd with your Express of the 18th Inst. by the Messenger, and beg you will acquaint their Lordships that had there been any Wind Yesterday I shou'd certainly have put to Sea with His Majesty's Squadron under my Command.

The Wind is now come again to the S. S. W blows too hard to attempt it and had I been at Sea the Weather is such as in all probability wou'd have obliged me to have sheltered the Fleet in Torbay.

It is to me great satisfaction to know that the Wind will prevent the Enemy getting to the Westward, and I have not a doubt but we shall yet arrive before them in the West Indies or intercept them in their passage.

Every nerve shall be stretched for so desireable a purpose, nor shall one moment be lost when Wind and Weather permits my putting to Sea. While I am obliged to remain here, I will hasten the Equipment of every ship ordered to go with, or to follow me.

I have already taken the Captains of the *Namur*, and *Hercules* under my Command as likewise the *Marlborough*. those ships are compleatly ready and will sail with me.

The *Formidable* shou'd she not be ready instantly to follow.

I beg you will assure their Lordships that their Anxiety, cannot be greater than my own and that I shall be miserable 'till we get sight of the Enemy's Fleet.

The Force I am now Honour'd with is such when joined that I flatter myself it will restore the Empire of the Ocean to Great Britain nothing shall be wanting on my part towards affecting so desireable an Event.

I have the Honour to be with great Regard Sir,

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain John Brisbane

Arrogant December 21st, 1781.

Sir,

I have been favour'd with your Letter of this days date and am sorry that your Health is so bad as to prevent your proceeding with me to Sea.

I shall agreeable to your request appoint a proper person to take the Charge of the Hercules, and am with real Regard, Sir,

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Brisbane

Commander of His Majesty's Ship Hercules

*To Captain Paul Henry Ourry, Commissioner of the
Navy at Plymouth*

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 21, 1781

Sir,

The Captains of His Majesty's Ships Namur and Hercules being ordered to put themselves under my Command and to get their Ships fitted and stored for foreign Service without a Moments loss of time I am to request you will give directions that the utmost exertion be used in your department for fitting the said Ships and compleating their Stores to a proper proportion for the said service as they are immediately wanted.

I am with great regard, Sir, Yours, &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Paul Ourry Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 21st 1781

Sir,

Captain Brisbane of His Majesty's Ship Hercules having informed me that his ill state of health is so much relapsed that it will prevent his paying that close attention to his duty that he cou'd wish and requested I wou'd allow him to go on shore for the re establishment thereof which being really the Case and that His Majesty's ship shou'd not suffer thereby, I have ordered Captⁿ Savage to take charge of the Command of the said ship 'till their Lordships pleasure shall be known.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

Philip Stephens Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

To Digory Tonkin, Agent Victualer at Plymouth

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 22d 1781

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship Namur & Hercules under my Command being ordered on Foreign Service, I desire you will cause the utmost dispatch to be used in Compleating their Victualling Stores and a proper proportion for the said Service. I am, Sir

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

To Digory Tonkin Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant Causand Bay 23 Dec^r 1781.

Sir,

Captain Brisbane of His Majesty's Ship Hercules having represented to me that he has a number of Men on

board which were lent from the Royal George, and were intended to have gone the Cruize on which he was ordered, which Men, since he has been ordered on foreign Service he has receiv'd directions to discharge into their proper Ships. The Service the Ship is now ordered on in all probability is of the utmost importance to the State; I can therefore by no means consent that those Men are returned to the Royal George unless an equal Number of as good Men are substituted in their room; The Squadron under my Command is now waiting in momentary readiness to Sail when the Wind and Weather Permit.

I shou'd be extreemly sorry to keep the Men belonging to the Royal George, but all private considerations must give way to Publick ones

And it is absolutely necessary that the Squadron under [my] Command shou'd have their Complements Completed without one Moments delay His Majesty's and the Public Service requiring it.

I shoud therefore be very glad you wou'd Honour me with yo[ur] Company to consult on this very necessary occasion and hope that you will be able to point out to me a method how that part of my squa[dron] fitting out at this Port may be properly Manned without takin[g] those Men lent from the Royal George which I shou'd be extream[ly] sorry to do but the Service I am going on is of such infinite Importance to His Majesty's Service that it is absolutely necessary that said Squadron under my Command shou'd be properly & well manned and if there is not a sufficient number of such Supern[u]meraries capable of doing the duty of able & Ordinary Seamen the Squadron must be manned from those Ships that are not wanted on immediate Service and will take the longest repair.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Milbank

*To William Redston, Storekeeper of the Ordnance at
Plymouth*

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 23d, 1781.

Sir,

His Majesty's Ships *Namur* and *Hercules* being ordered [on] Foreign Service, I am to desire you will immediately cause the utmost exertion to be used in completing the Ordnance Stores [of] the said Ships to proper proportions for the said service as they [are] instantly wanted. I am Yours &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To W^m Redston Esq^r

Storekeeper of the Ordnance Plymouth

*To William Redston, Storekeeper of the Ordnance at
Plymouth*

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 23d 1781.

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship *Flora* being ordered to proceed on Foreign Service, I am to desire you will cause the utmost exertion to be used in completing her Ordnance Stores to a proper proportion for the said Service she being instantly wanted. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To W^m Redston Esq^r

Storekeeper of the Ordnance Plymouth

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 27th, 1781

Sir,

I receiv'd by Express to Commissioner Ourry the Honor of your Letter of the 24th Instant inclosing In-

telligence respecting the French Fleet as transmitted by Commo^{re} Elliot to Rear Adm^l Kempenfelt.

The Weather having been extreemly bad and the Wind very violent at S. S. W. & S. W. with a heavy Sea in the Channel has prevented the sailing of the Squadron under my Command, but their Lordships may be assured, that, not a Moment will be lost and that the Fleet I have the Honor to Command shall put to Sea, when Wind and Weather will admit thereof.

The Hercules is in the Sound and the Namur Formidable and Marlboro' will be ready to go there when the Weather will permit.

Inclosed I transmit to their Lordships the State and Condition of the Ships under my Command, and am Sir, with great Regard,

Yours &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

[Philip] Stephens Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 28th, 1781

Sir,

As several of the Ships at this Port which there Lordships have been pleased to put under my Command are very short of Complement, and it is of the utmost Consequence to His Majesty's service that they shou'd be compleatly manned.

I must desire you will be pleased to order the same to be Effected as expeditiously as possible, that the Sailing of the above Ships and the Public Service may not be detrimented or suffer any delay therefrom. I have the Honour to be &c. &c.

Yours &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Vice Adm^l Milbank

To Vice Admiral Mark Milbanke

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 29th, 1781

Sir,

I am honour'd with your Letter of the 28th Instant informing me that the number of disposable Men at this Port, is very inadequate to compleating the Complements of the Ships of the Squadron under my Command and that there is no other method of manning them, but from other Ships.

In answer to which I have the Honor to acquaint you that as the fate of Britain may possibly depend on the Oppera[tion] of the fleet, under my Command, their being properly manned [is] an object of the highest Importance, and cannot too expeditiously be attended to. I must therefore desire, that the number of Men the Squadron are deficient in may be supplied from those Ships named in the Margin,¹ who you have reported to me are in want of repair they may receive from the Hospital those sick Men which the Ships of my Squadron will be obliged to leave behind.

The Hercules which was under sailing orders before she was put under my Command and to whom you directed a considerable number of Men to be lent from the Royal George agreeable to your order, has returned those Men to their proper Ship, I must therefore request that you will please to give directions that the Hercules's Complement may be compleated as that Ship is now in the Sound I have directed her Captain, as likewise the Captain of the Formidable Namur & Marlboro' to wait upon you with an account of what Men will be wanted to compleat those Ships, and shall give them the strictest orders not to permit any of their Ships Companies to go on shore that you may not be again troubled in Compleating their Complements.

¹ [Du]nkirk, Dublin, Lively, Lark, Squirrel, Fairy, Cormorant.

I am sure I have no occasion to point out to you the necessity of the Squadron under my Command, being ready to sail at a Moments warning and beg you will be assured that I have the Honor to be &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. I must protest against any of those indisposeable Men who have been so often refused being put on board the fleet I have the Honour to Command as they are going on the mos[t] important service.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 30th, 1781.

Sir,

I am honour'd with your Letter of the 26th Inst. inclosing a petition from Mess^{rs} Hagues, to their Lordships, requesting that Tudball an apprentice might be discharged from the Service, with their Lordships directions to me for the purpose.

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that, I have given the requisite order for his discharge from the Nonsuch, as also a Certificate of its being done by their directions, and inclosed have the Honor to return you Mess^{rs} Hagues Petition in his favour. I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Arrogant Causand Bay Dec^r 30th, 1781

Sir,

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter of the 27th Inst. acquainting me, that Vice Admiral Milbank had reported to my Lords Commissioners of the Ad-

miralty that I had taken upon me the directions of all such His Majesty's Ships at Plymouth as their Lordships had put under my Command. I certainly have done so, and have obliged their Commanders and the Officers of His Majesty's Dock Yard here, to use every dispatch possible in refitting them for Service, and have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships that they are now all compleatly ready for Sea when Wind and Weather will permit them to proceed. But at present it blows and has continued for several Days to blow so very hard, at S. W. as not to admit of the Squadron proceeding to Sea.

In regard to manning those Ships of the Squadron under my Command which, were fitted from this port, upon Vice Adm^l Milbank reporting to me, that he had no Men to compleat their Complements without taking them from other Ships, Inclosed I send for their Lordships perusal my Letter to Vice Admiral Milbank on that occasion recommending it to him to take the Men from those Ships which will take the longest time in repair, which Ships in all probability may be mann'd from the 1,000 Men now in the Hospital who may be recovered before those Ships are ready to receive them the manner of disposing of them I have left intirely to Vice Admiral Milbank.

On considering the great number of Marines belonging to the Fleet their Lordships have put under my Command, and the very important Service on which I am ordered, may render it necessary for His Majesty's Service to land Bodies of Marines to attack the public Enemy and to co operate with His Majesty's Land forces, I must beg leave to suggest to their Lordships the utility of Field Officers to command the different Bodies of Marines that it may be necessary to land on the different Operations on which I may be employed

Experience has taught me that Captains of Marines, are not proper Officers to command large Bodies of Men, or is Discipline so well sustained, as when Field Officers of Rank command them.

I therefore hope their Lordships will please to take this matter into consideration and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing Field Officers arrive in the West Indies in the Squadron which their Lordships have appointed to follow me.

I will venture to affirm that it may be attended with great Consequence to His Majesty's Service & may prevent great Confusion shou'd it be necessary to land Marines, on any Important Occasion.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Captain Taylor Penny

Arrogant Causand Bay 31st December 1781

Sir,

In Answer to your Letter I was Yesterday favour'd with, I must beg leave to acquaint you that as I have several Lieutenants going out with me unappointed to any Ship, I shall shortly before the Sailing of His Majesty's Ship under your Command appoint one of them to act on board her unless previous thereto, the Gentleman You apply'd for, or any other their Lordships may please to appoint shall make appearance with a Commission for her.

I am, Sir &c.

To Captⁿ Penny Marlborough

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain George Balfour

Arrogant Causand Bay 31st Dec^r 1781

Sir,

I have receiv'd your Letter, dated yesterday, and am very sorry, you shou'd have Reason to make such a

Representation, of the Company of His Majesty's Ship under your Command, which I hoped after the application I made to Sir Thos. Pye, at Portsmouth, wou'd have been compleated at Spithead.

In an[s]wer, I have to inform you that I have ordered the Ships Company to be surveyed and if she is not properly manned, I shall direct that she be so. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Balfour, Conqueror

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable Plymouth Sound 6 Jan^r 1782

Sir,

I am honoured with your Letter of the 3d Inst: by Express containing Copies of 2 Letters from Captain Inglis with Intelligence relative to the French Fleet at Martinico

You will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships that not a moment shall be lost in putting to Sea with the Squadron under my Command (the Ships being now all in the Sound & perfectly ready) as soon as the Wind will permit, it being nearly Calm, but I hope from the present appearance, it will spring up from the Northward; the Squadron being all unmoored.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable in Plymouth Sound Jan^r 7th, 1782.

Sir,

Be pleased to inform their Lordships, that after the Letter I did myself the honour to write Yesterday, the

Wind came round again to the S W. and continued so all Night blowing hard. It is this Morning become Westerly, and shou'd it (as I hope it will) get far enough to the Northward they may be assured I shall embrace the earliest Moment to put to Sea.

I am sorry to acquaint their Lordships that Captⁿ Bickerton in His Majesty's Ship Amazon is just arrived from the West Indies and brings the disagreeable News of the Island of St. Eustatius, having been taken by Surprize by two French Frigates with about 300 Men.

This News their Lordships may be sure has greatly distressed as well as surprized me, As I had flattered myself the Garrison left there, with the new Works erected, wou'd have rendered it impregnable to a force infinitely Superior to that it yielded to.

The Circumstance which adds most to the Concern I feel on this unfortunate Occasion is, that I left directions, that the Island shou'd never be left, without one large, or two small, Frigates.

This untoward Event will greatly add to the difficulties attendant on the Command of the Station, And as their Lordships will doubtless think it necessary to send an Admiral out with the Reinforcement destined to follow me, I shall esteem myself highly obliged to them to give me leave to recommend Rear Admiral Sir Rich^d Hughes for that purpose, He being an Officer of whose Character and Abilities for such a Command I have a very good opinion. And as the Number of Frigates on that Station has been greatly diminished since my leaving it, by the Cyclops, the Hyæna and Amazon being dispatched Home, I hope their Lordships will excuse my recommending it to their Consideration, whether it will not be necessary to send out others with the above Reinforcement or as soon as conveniently may be to replace them.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

*To the Commissioners of the Victualing*Arrogant in Causand Bay 8th Jan^r 1782¹

Gentlemen,

I have been favour'd with your Letter of the 5th Dec^r relative to Mr Akers of St. Kitts having neglected to send Home the proper Vouchers for the Wine he purchased at that Island by my Order last August twelve month for the Squadron under my Command, and yet may depend on my directing him to Transmit them Instantly as I arrive in the West Indies.

In the mean Time I herewith inclose a List² of the Ships to which the said Wine was served that if their Pursers have neglected to Charge themselves therewith, their Accounts may not be closed 'till an exact List of the Quantity respectively supply'd each ship, together with the regular Vouchers for the same can be remitted to your Board.

I have the Honor to be with great regard Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Commissioners for the Victualling

G. B. RODNEY

From Captain Sir Charles Douglas to the Victualing Contractor at Paignton, Devon

Formidable Torbay 10 Jan^r 1782

Sir

Sir Geo^e B Rodney to whom I have the honor to be first Captain hereby requires & directs You to supply His Majesty's Fleet in this Bay, under his Command

¹The date is crossed, but no other substituted. In volume 5 of the Rodney MSS. in the Public Record Office, London, the copy of this letter is dated December 19, 1781.

² [Marginal note:] Sandwich, Russel, Culloden, Triumph, Shrewsbury, Centaur, Montagu, Alcide, Terrible, Yarmouth, Egmont, Torbay

with fresh Beef two Days, sufficient for 7200, and he also desires You to provide therewith and send off a usual proportion of Greens, for which the Pursers of the different Ships will settle with you

And to avoid the inconveniences that attend sending the Boats of the Squadron on Shore, Sir George further requires You to send off such Meat & Greens in a Vessel proper for that purpose to be anchored as near as possible in the middle of the Squadron, with a Flag of any kind flying at the Mast-head and You are hereby authorised to hire such Vessels & charge the expence thereof to Government, as also any other that may be incurr'd in bringing down the Beef to the Shore.

I am Sir Yours &c

CHAS: DOUGLAS

To The Contractor for Victualling His Majestys Navy
Penton [sic for Paignton]

*From Captain Sir Charles Douglas to Vice Admiral
Mark Milbanke*

Sir Formidable Torbay 10 Jan^r 1782

I am directed by Admiral Sir Geo^e Rodney to acquaint You, that after having put to Sea on the 8th Instant with His Majesty's Squadron under his Command; a violent Gale came on at S W and continued till Yesterday Noon, when the Weather cleared up, and the Admiral bore away for Torbay. The Squadron are all safe arrived except the Arrogant, which Ship the Admiral supposes may be in Causand Bay or Plymouth, if so he begs You will be so obliging as to forward the inclosed to her Commander, with the utmost dispatch possible.

I have the honor to be &c.

CHAS: DOUGLAS

P: S: Since writing the above I find the Flora is not arrived & the Frigate we took for her proves to be the

Arethusa. You will therefore be pleased to forward the inclosed for Captⁿ Marshall, should the Flora be in Causand Bay, or the Sound.

To Vice Admiral Milbank.

From Captain Sir Charles Douglas to Captain Taylor Penny

Formidable in Torbay the 10 Jan^y 1782

Sir,

I am Commanded by Admiral Sir Geo. B. Rodney in answer to your Letter which he received this Morning, to inform you that he is very much Surprised at your not having any Carpenters on board His Majesty's Ship under your Command after having been in Commission such a considerable length of time and much more so at your not having obtain'd them from Vice Adm^l Milbank previous to your Sailing.

And at your expressing an expectation of being supplied with any Artificers from him a Master Carpenter excepted.

The Admiral intends appointing a Carpenter to the Marlborough, as also a first and second Lieutenant to complete your established Number.

I am &c.

CHAS: DOUGLAS

To Captain Penny
Marlborough

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable in Torbay 10 Jan^y 1782

Sir,

Be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that the Wind having come to the N W & by N, I sailed with His Ma-

jestys Squadron under my Command the 8 Instant at Noon, but a violent Gale of Wind with a large Sea, having come on in the Night, at S W and S W & by W, which continued all the next Morning, I thought it necessary at 1 P M Yesterday to stand for this Bay, where, the Ships all got in safe without any material damage except the Arrogant and Flora which are not yet arrived and that along with the Ships under my Command the Arethusa Frigate Capt^a Sir R. Pearson came also into this Bay, having been obliged to put back after having got the length of the Lizard, on the Evening of the Day we sail'd.

I have dispatch'd an Express to Plymouth to order the Arrogant and Flora should they have been obliged to put into Causand Bay or the Sound, to join me here with all the expedition possible.

The Wind is this Morning come round to the N W, continuing to blow hard, but as the Ships will ride here, with much greater safety than in either of the former places; I am freed from the anxiety, I could not help being under, from so many of His Majesty's Capital Ships being crowded together in the Sound during the continuance of the violent S W Winds which have so long prevail'd.

The Ships in this Bay being compleat in their Provisions and Stores, I shall embrace the first opportunity to carry their Lordships Commands into execution.

I have the Honor to be &c.

G: B: RODNEY

The Admiral having the Gout in his Hand I the Underwritten have at his Command signed his Name as above Witness my Hand

CHARLES DOUGLAS

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable in Torbay 13th Jan^r 1782

Sir,

I trouble you, with the inclosed Petition, which I have this Instant receiv'd, in Order to your laying it before their Lordships, hoping, they will be pleased to Order the poor Sufferer to be admitted into Greenwich Hospital, or grant him such relief, as they shall Judge his unhappy Case deserving of.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

N. B the above Letter contained a Petition from [blank] Kesh, Late of the Sandwich, now in the fourth West Ward, at Haslar Hospital, relative to his being in-valaded & sent home, without a smart ticket.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable at Sea Lat^{de} 46.6:

Cape Finister bearing S 15 W dist: 60 Leag^s

Jan^r 19th 1781 [*sic* for 1782]

Sir,

I take the Opportunity by the Surprize Frigate, which I have this moment spoke to, with her Convoy from Lisbon, to acquaint their Lordships, that notwithstanding a very severe Gale of Wind, His Majesty's Fleet under my Command by carrying a press of Sail were enabled to weather Ushant on the 17th Instant. The Wind tho' Westerly is now moderate, & I have not a doubt but we shall make a quick passage, the whole Squadron are with

me, but from the severity of the Weather many of them have lost Sails.

I have the Honor to be with great Regard, &c.

G: B: RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

From the Commissioners of the Victualing

Victualling Office 21st January 1782

Sir,

Mr. Jno. Blackburn's Contract for supplying His Majesty's Ships at St. Lucia with Sea Provisions expiring on the 1st June and for Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands on the 5th July next, the Rt. Hon^{ble} the Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty have thought proper to direct us, to cause His Majesty's Ships on the Leeward Islands Station to be supplied from those times with Provision from this Office, and to cause such of the Provisions as Mr. Blackburn may have deposited in those Islands for the Use of His Majesty's Ships and be remaining there at the expiration of his Contract, to be received and paid for as issued, provided they are found on Survey to be sweet, good and fit for His Majesty's Service. And their Lordships having also been pleased to direct us to appoint Mr. John Marr to be our Agent for Victualling His Majesty's Ships on the before mentioned Station to reside at St. Lucia with two assistant Clerks and one Head Clerk at Barbadoes, and another at Antigua, the Places of Residence of the Agent and his Clerks to be changed at the discretion of the Commander in Chief as circumstances may require, and part of the Provisions to be kept afloat and part to be lodged in Storehouses as the Commander in Chief may direct. We think it necessary to acquaint you thereof, and that we have given Mr. Marr proper Instructions for his government in the said employment and desire you will please to give directions

for such Officers as you may think necessary to join with Mr. Marr and Mr. Blackburn's Agents, in the Survey of the Provisions belonging to the Contractor that may be remaining in Store at the expiration of the Contracts and to attest the same with them, as the Provisions are not to be paid for, until those Vouchers are produced.

We have only to add that Mr. Marr, and his Clerks will go out by the first opportunity; and that we are now loading Provisions on board a number of Victuallers, to be in readiness to proceed as Convoys may offer. We are Sir &c.

J. BATES

WM. LAND [*sic* for Lance]

J. KIRKE

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c.

From Lieutenant John Brand

H. M. Schooner Expedition

English Harbour, Antigua

Jan^y 31st 1782.

Sir

In the Execution of the orders that I had the honor of receiving from you of the 26th Inst. Unfortunately we got on shore in going into English Harbour, by a flow of Wind heading us, and before Assistance could be had she bulged; the Utmost attention hath been paid in saving her stores: As I am Anxious to have it in my power to serve again, I have to request you will be pleas'd to order an inquiry on my conduct for the lost of His Majesty's Schooner Expedition. I am Sir &c.

JOHN BRAND

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Formidable at Sea 20 Feb^r 1782

Sir

Late last Night I arrived with the Fleet under my Command in Carlisle Bay, in five Weeks from Torbay; you may easily imagine my Concern, at hearing of the Capture of Demarara &c and of the Enemy attacking the Island of St. Christophers.

I put to Sea early this morning, the moment the Calm ceased, in Order to join Sir Sam^l Hood, who, I am told has had several Actions with the french fleet and is now at Anchor off the Salt pans at St. Christopher's.

I woud have wished, that a Frigate had met me to Windward¹ off Barbadoes, with this important news; had that been the Case, instead of writing to you, I shoud at this instant have been in Sight of your Island, the Wind being at N N E will prevent my getting there so soon as I coud wish. But I hope that Captain Vashon will be in Time to bring me every necessary Intelligence relative to the Situation of affairs in the Leeward Islands.

In all probability the Fleet under my Command will be off your Island a few hours after the Alert.

I beg you will be assured that I have the Honor to be with real regard D^r S^r

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G B RODNEY

To John Laforey Esq^r
&c. &c. &c. Antigua

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N B. Not one Frigate stationed to Windward at this very
Critical time

*From Major General Thomas Shirley to Commissioner
John Laforey*

St. Kitts Feb^r 20th 1782

My Dear Sir

I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing you some Time next Week, when I shall have an Opportunity of being able to talk over all Matters, that have happen'd since my departure from Antigua, having had no Opportunity of sending my Dispatches to England but thro' France, and upon which I wou'd put more Dependance than I am Oblig'd to do, and General Fraser having Embark'd with his Troops for Europe, by the way of St. Domingo, It may be some time before Government can get any proper Official Intelligence of the Surrender of this Island. I must earnestly Intreat the favour of you to forward this, to the Commander in Chief of our Navy, in these Seas, that a proper Vessel may be ready for me upon my Arrival at Antigua, to go Express with my Dispatches from thence, they shall be all prepar'd, and Brought with me, and I mean to Dispatch my Nephew, Mr: Hutchinson, immediately upon my Arrival, or that you will be so good as to take such Steps, as that as little Delay possible may attend my being Enabled to send off these Dispatches.

I am with Great Regard Dear Sir &c. &c.

THOS. SHIRLEY

Commiss^r Laforey

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur in St. John's Road Antigua
20th February 1782

Sir,

I have the Honor to acquaint you, that I anchor'd in this Road last Night, with His Majesty's Squadron un-

der my Command, having left the Road of Basseterre on the 14th at Night; and as soon as I have taken on board Yams & Flour as a succedaneum for Bread of which last Article the Ships have none, I shall put to sea. I send Captain Rodney with this Letter and hope to be at Barbadoes in two or three days after him, if I do not join you on my passage.

I am &c.

SAM: HOOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Barbadoes 21 Feb^r 1782

Sir

A Schooner has just now been offer'd to me for sale, and giving you her description within, I humbly submit the matter to your consideration, only observing that on the Arrival of Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood Bart: with the Squadron, I was directed by Commiss^r Laforey to look out for two Vessels of about 60 or 70 Tons for Watering the Fleet, when at St. Lucia, but could meet with none fit for that purpose. The reason this is now to be sold is the Capture of Demarara, to which Place she traded, her Price will be Six Hundred Pounds Sterling. Should you be pleased to appropriate her to any other purpose than a Watering Vessel, she is capable of mounting 14 four Pounders.

I am &c. &c.

WILL^M RAGGETT

Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

Endeavour Schooner, America Built

Length of Keel	60 Feet
Breadth of Beam	20
Depth of Hold	9½
Draws when deep between	8 & 9
“ light	3½

will stow about 230 or 260 Puncheons

Estimated at about 118 Tons

Furnished with

Main Sails, one new & one Worn

Foresails, One ¼ Worn

Staysails, One ¼ Worn

Jibb, One New

	t	q ^r	lb	
Anchors	6:	0:	0	One
	3:	0:	0	One
Cables 11 inch:				One ⅓ Worn
6				One New

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Barbadoes, 22d Feb^r 1782

Sir

Among the many Losses we sustained by the Hurricane in October 1780, our Small Arms suffered very much; the greatest Part of them being destroyed, and as those remaining are by no Means sufficient in Case of an Attack to arm the Island properly; I think it my Duty to apply to your Excellency for a Supply of 500 to 1000 Stand, or as many as you can conveniently Spare. You may rely upon their being carefully preserved, so that they may be return'd in that State whenever the Service may require your calling for them.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect and Regard
Your Excellency's most &c. &c.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM

Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bart. K. B.

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Antigua Feb^r 23 1782

Sir

I am under the necessity of representing to you the Detriment the publick Service suffers from the want of my being vested with a sufficient Power to autheroise [*sic*] the carrying into Execution the Orders I from time to time receive from the Commander in Chief in the Services which have hitherto been expected from me since I have been placed here.

I some time past upon a particular Occasion represented this to Sir Sam^l Hood, who was pleased to give me for Answer, that not being Commander in Chief by Commission he wished to decline entering into the Matter at large, but would guard against inconveniences arising in future from the Acts of the Commanders of Vessels of War, who he should in future send to this Port.

I will not now trouble you Sir with a detail of these Matters further than to observe, that the Duty which has hitherto been required of me extends to all the Ports of this Island, and that to execute such it is necessary the Officer appointed for it should be possessed of an Order to take under his Command all such His Majesty's Ships and Vessels as come to the Island of Antigua for the purposes of carrying into Execution the Orders he shall from time to time receive from the Commander in Chief, and that a General Order address'd to the Commanders of Ships that may arrive to put themselves under his Command, may be deposited with him.

This Sir I presume to offer as in my humble opinion may be the means of obviating the Difficult[i]es which too frequently obstruct the arrangements that are indispensable for carrying on the Duties of the Ports and forwarding such Services as you may please to direct.

How far such Powers are proper to be put into my Hands You Sir only are competent to determine, but for

my own part, I will beg leave to declare that from the Mortifications I have suffered and the obstructions which have, and are likely happen to service from the inefficacy of the Station I fill here in the Military Line, it will be much more eligible to me that I should confine myself to my civil Department, and there is ample Employment for a Commanding Officer at this Island besides.

I am nevertheless Sir duly sensible of the obedience I owe to your Orders, trusting that whatever military Service you may expect from me you will be of Opinion, that a Power adequate thereto should be reposed in me, as otherwise your Expectations and my best Endeavours will be liable to be too often frustrated.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

JN^O LAFOREY

Admiral Sir G. B. Rodney Bart, K. B &ca. &ca. &ca.

From Captain Thomas Burnett

Royal Oak in English Harbour
23d February 1782

Sir,

I had the honor to receive your orders of the 20th Instant for putting myself under your Command. I herewith Inclose you the State & Condition of His Majesty's Ship Royal Oak and likewise Sir Sam^l Hoods letter to me of the 22d Instant which Gives you the latest Information where he is. I hope to be ready to Sail in three or four days having Sir Sam^l Hood's orders for my Joining him at Barbadoes, bringing two bowsprits with me one for the Monarch and the other for the Alfred, as also two Cables and some other Stores, the Robust and Janus have put in here some time since in great distress being on their passage for England, the Robust is to be repaired and have Jury Masts to Carry her to England the Janus

is to be Coppered & fitted for Service. the Nymph having met with an Accident the Alfred having run on board of her is here repairing the Hornett is ready for Sea only waiting for the return of her people who are on Duty at St. John's and Old Roads the Germaine will be ready in three or four Days and is ordered for Barbadoes by Sir Sam^l Hood The Berbice Schooner Lieutenant Thompson Commanding her will be ready in four or five Days but has no Men the Tickler Star and Renard are here but without Men. the Star is appointed to relieve the Pacahunta at St. Johns the other two are in a very bad Condition not fit to go to Sea. I have the honor to be Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

THOS. BURNETT

Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart.
&c. &c. &c

To Captain Thomas Burnett

Formidable Off English Harbour
23 feb^y 1782

Sir

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter by Captain Vashon, and must desire you not to lose one Moments Time, in joining me with His Majesty's Ship under your Command, agreeable to the inclosed Rendezvous, which you are to keep a profound Secret. And as I have orderd the Yarmouth into Freemans Bay for a Main Yard you are to take her under your Command, provided His Majestys ship under your Command is ready to proceed to Sea; but upon no account to detain the Yarmouth shoud she be ready before you, as it is of the utmost consequence that His Majestys Fleet in these Seas should be assembled with every dispatch possible.

I must desire you will please to give directions that the Nymph joins me with every dispatch possible, and

that the Hornett may join me if possible tomorrow Morning off this Island.

I shall be very Glad to See you and be assured I am with great Regard Sir

Yours & & &

G. B. RODNEY

Captain Burnett
Royal Oak

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Antigua Yard 23d Feb^y 1782

Dear Sir,

I have the honor of your Favour dated the 20th Instant and beg leave to congratulate you upon your safe Arrival in these Seas.

Captain Burnett who commands here at present will doubtless inform you of the Fate of St Kitts and that Sir Sam^l Hood sail'd yesterday Evening for Barbadoes to water his Fleet and form a junction with you.

It is with great concern I must acquaint you that we have not in the Yard a Topmast or a Topsail Yard for a Ship of the Line except a Fore topmast the only one left to the Robust which with a Main Yard for the Yarmouth shall be sent as soon as you appear off. We have now in Hand a Main topmast for a Seventy four the Head of which we have been obliged to tongue in order to lengthen it and will be finished to morrow morning.

The Masts and Spars which were wrecked at Barbuda before you left this Country have been lately brought to St John's, some of those may do when we can get them round which I have no other Means of doing but by getting them towed by small Vessels when they come here with Stores and Provisions for this Port.

I now enclose a List of such lower Masts and Yards as are in Store here at present.

As I promise myself the pleasure of waiting on you upon your coming off the Port I will conclude with my best respects having the honor to be with very great Regard Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

JOHN LAFOREY

Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bar: &c. &c. &c.

To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Formidable off English Harbour Antigua
23d feb^r 1782

Dear Sir,

I am this Moment honour'd with yours by Captain Vashon. The Capture of St. Kitts, you may be sure, gives me the utmost concern, thro Storms, Tempests, and contrary Winds, we have forced our way not only in hope of saving the British Islands in these Seas, but likewise, with our accumulated Force to have brought the French Fleet to a decessive Action.

I was in hopes particularly as my return to this Station must have been long known, that Frigates, wou'd have been Stationed to windward of Barbadoes, that I might have been acquainted with the Situation of Affairs, had Frigates been stationed to windward I shou'd have been with you three Days ago.¹

The Moment I was made acquainted with the Attack on St. Christophers, and the Situation of the Fleet, under the Command of Sir Sam^l Hood, no Time was lost in using my best Endeavours to join him.

¹[Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N B. Great neglect in Sir S. Hood in not stationing Frigates to windward of Barbadoes, as it was his Duty. in all probability De Grass might have been brought to an Action before he reached Martinique.

His sailing yesterday to the Northward, has prevented so pleasing a prospect, for I came determined to attack in conjunction with him the French Fleet, which, his leaving Antigua has for some time prevented. But I flatter myself, it will not be long, before they will give me an Opportunity.

I have dispatched my best sailing Ship,¹ to endeavour to meet with Sir Sam^l, before his arrival at Barbadoes, that the Juncture with me may speedily be made.

As I observe there are several small Frigates, which may be of infinite consequence at this Juncture particularly in bringing me Intelligence from your Island, or the motions of the Enemy, I must desire that you or the commanding Officer (for the Time being) will order Men to be lent from the Robust and Janus, that the Frigates may join me with your dispatches agreeable to the inclosed Rendezvous which I must desire you will keep a profound Secret, and shou'd the French Fleet make an Attack on Antigua if the Inhabitants will but defend the strong Posts they may depend on my receiving Intelligence that the whole British Fleet shall come to their assistance.

I must desire upon Mr. Burnet's leaving English Harbour you will hoist your distinguishing Pendant again & take the Command upon you as usual.

I have the honour to be with the sincerest regard, D^r Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To John Laforey Esq^r

&c. &c. &c. Antigua

I must desire if you meet with any Ships, Brigs or Vessels fit for His Majesty's Service that you cause them to be purchased as I have orders for that purpose.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
The Anson

From Captain Thomas Burnett

Royal Oak in English Harbour
24th Febr^y 1782

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your's of the 23d Inst. with the Rendezvous Inclosed you may be assured I wont loose one Moment's time in joining you as soon as His Majesty's Ship under my Command is ready for Sea which cannot be before next Tuesday I shall not detain the Yarmouth one Moment if she is ready before me and shall give the La Nymph proper Orders for joining you with all Dispatch I have desired Captain Crosby to Supply the Hornet with Water and she shall Join you to day. I shall think myself very happy in Joining you.

I am &c.

THOS. BURNETT

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Anthony St. Leger

Formidable off English Harbour
24 february 1782

D^r St. Leger

On my receiving Intelligence of an attack being made on the Island of St Christophers, it prevented my joining you at St. Lucia as I thought it my duty not to lose one moments Time in supporting St. Christophers and having an opportunity of bringing on a General Action with the Enemy's Fleet.

But to my utmost astonishment on my arrival of this Island, yesterday I was made acquainted that St. Christophers had surrender'd and that Sir S. Hood with the fleet under his command, had left St. Johns Road Antigua and was hastening to Barbadoes.

I have dispatch'd a Ship after him to Order him to Rendezvous at St. Lucia that the junction of the fleets may be made and the first opportunity taken of Attacking the Enemy's fleet.

You may expect to see me very shortly and beg you will be assured that I have the Honor to be with great regard, D^r Sir

Yours &c. &c. &c.

Brigadier General St Leger

G B RODNEY

*To the Marquis de Bouillé, Governor-General of the
French Windward Islands*

Sir

Antigua 24th Feb^r 1782

I have the Honor to introduce to your Excellency, The Hon^{ble} Wm. Payne Georges Esq^r Chief Justice of the Island of St. Christophers, who came out with me from Great Britain: and being a proprietor of Land, in the said Island, wishes to avail himself of the Terms of Capitulation granted by your Excellency to the Inhabitants thereof. I beg leave to add, that your Excellency's attention, and Civilities to this Gentleman, will be gratefully acknowledged by me.

I have the Honor to be with Real Respect and Esteem,
Your Excellency's most Ob^t &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

His Excellency The Marquis De Bouillé
&c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable off English Harbor

24th February 1782

My Dear Sir,

You may easily imagine my Concern when on my arrival off this Island Yesterday Evening, I was made ac-

quainted with the Surrender of St. Christophers and of your Sailing the Day before with the Fleet under your Command to the Northward.

As Mr Laforey nor Captain Burnett have sent me by the Alert Brig any Intelligence whatever relative to the Situation of the Enemy's Fleet or the condition of the Island of Antigua & of His Majesty's Stores disposed there: I am under the necessity of going down myself that I may be perfectly acquainted with the situation of Affairs at Antigua, and give every assistance in my power towards defending it; when I have so done I shall hasten the Fleet under my Command according as I receive Intelligence of the motions of the Enemy's, but shou'd I receive no Intelligence within Forty eight Hours, I shall proceed without loss of time directly to Windward of point Salines Martinico from 10 to 15 Leagues in hopes of intercepting the French Convoy of Nine Sail of the Line and Transports with 6,000 Troops on board which left France at the time Adm^l Kempinfelt intercepted part of their Convoy the greatest part of which were obliged by Stress of Weather to return to different Ports of France & I suppose are now on their way to the West Indies.

I have dispatched the Hercules to St Lucia and have left Orders for the Line of Battle Ships hourly expected from England to Rendezvous in Gross Islet Bay, for the better protection of that Island, and shou'd be glad if the Squadron under your Command either joins me off Martinico or Cruizes off Point Salines 'till I have an opportunity of making the Junction which you may depend upon shall be as soon as possible.

As I hear by the Alert Brig that two of your Ships are in want of Bowsprits and other Stores, I have ordered Captain Burnett in His Majesty's Ship Royal Oak, to proceed without a Moments loss of time to St Lucia, if you will order those Ships likewise to that Island it will not only be forwarding the Publick Service but add greatly to its defence shou'd the Enemy presume to attack it.

I most sincerely partake with you in the calamity that has befallen His Majesty's Arms by the Surrender of St. Christophers and am fully convinced that every thing that cou'd possibly be done by Man, has been done by you, and have not a doubt but on our junction we shall have an opportunity of making the Enemy feel the Weight of the British Arms.

I must conclude with saying that I have not a doubt but you will act in the best manner possible and as circumstances may require for the good of His Majesty's Service; till the junction between our Fleets is made; and leave the manner of acting entirely to your judgment recommending it to your consideration whether those Line of Battle Ships that are in no condition to cruize to Windward of Martinico shou'd not be ordered to St Lucia for the better protection of that very important Island.

I have much to say to you when we meet and beg you will be assured that I shall ever be with real truth and sincerity Dear Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Ham^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I shou'd have wrote with my own hand, but the Gout will not permit me.

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

English Harbour 24th February 1782

Sir,

I have the honour of your Letter dated yesterday, and will take care to pay due obedience, to the Directions you have given therein.

I will cause to be purchased whatever Vessels come

here, that are proper for His Majesty's Service, agreeable to your desire.

I think it most probable the Ship you have sent after Sir Sam^l Hood will meet him as he crosses, with his Fleet, to the Southward.

The Report which Captⁿ Vashon tells me, he communicated to you, that the Enemy were forty four Sail of the Line, has I believe no foundation, when Sir Sam^l Hood left St Kitts, there were then thirty two Sail of the Line at Anchor under Nevis, and I beleive two Sail more at Old Road, and Sandy Point, but at that time, the Triumphant & Brave had joined them from Europe, and possibly some others. I beleive twenty seven Sail of the Line, and two of fifty Guns, was their Force at St Kitts, before the junction of those from Europe, has many of them are arrived we have not yet heard.

I will agreeable to your Orders, hoist my distinguishing Pendant again and resume the Command, as soon as Captain Burnett leaves the Port, and I beg leave to submit to you Consideration, Sir, a Letter now accompan[y]ing this, which I had written upon the Subject, as soon as I heard of your Arrival in these Seas, and I wish to know if it is your Pleasure, that Court Martials shou'd be again held here, occasionally because in that Case, I will request you will be pleased to have an alteration made in the Order you gave me, for that purpose, a Copy of which I now inclose, as through an Inadvertance in the Person who drew it up, my Power is confined only to the Applications made to me from others, and I am precluded thereby from ordering any at my own instance if I find it necessary.

I have the honour to be with great Respect and Regard Sir

Yours &c. &c. &c.

JOHN LAFOREY

Adm^l Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K B &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur at Sea Febr^y 25th 1782

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you, that upon the Alfred's running on board the Nymph, early in the Morning of the 24th of last Month, off the East End of the Island of Nevis, I directed the Lieutenant of the Watch in each Ship to be suspended, in order that their Conduct might be enquired into at a Court Martial, so soon as the Kings Service would permit. I have the honor to be
Sir &c.

SAM. HOOD

Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bt. K. B &c. &c. &c.

From Captain Thomas Burnett

Royal Oak in English Harbor
25th Feb^y 1782

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your Signals and Instructions this day, also your order to Compleat the Victualling of His Majesty's Ship Royal Oak, to four Months.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

THOS. BURNETT

Adm^l Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Bedford at Sea Feb^y 26, 1782

Sir

I am sorry I could not have the Honor of paying my respects to you Yesterday by your filling before I could

get my Boat out after bringing too in my Station prescribed: and that I am so lame with the Rheumatism in my right Arm to day, that I cannot get in and out of a Boat, and therefore have been obliged to send my Captain.

I am anxious for the moment of being able to attend your Commands in Person, and do most sincerely Congratulate you, on your return to this Country, and hope for every success to your undertakings.

I beg to Inclose you My orders, for your Inspection, and to subscribe myself with all Respect, and Esteem, Sir &c.

EDM^D AFFLECK

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

From Captain Thomas Burnett

Royal Oak in English Harbour
26th February 1782

Sir

I am very Sorry I am not ready to Sail to day with the Yarmouth and Convert, which some unforeseen delays has prevented, but hope nothing will obstruct my Sailing on Thursday next.

The Hospital Ship with the Sick and Wounded is Yesterday arrived from Basseterre. I have order'd the Hornet to St. Johns to take in her booms, and boats and then to proceed immediately to Join you.

I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

THOS. BURNETT

Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. K. B &c. &c. &c.

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

At Sea 27 February 1782

Sir

I was yesterday honoured with your Letter containing Rear Adm^l Digby's Orders to You by your Captain and

am sorry your Indisposition should have deprived me of the pleasure of seeing you.

I herewith return you the above Orders, but in the present Situation of Affairs it will be altogether needless to observe that nothing can be said as to the Time when the American Ships can be spared to return back from this Station.

I heartily thank you for your kind Congratulations on my Return to this Country, beg you will accept of my best wishes for the Recovery of your health and remain with great regard and Esteem

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Commodore Affleck

From Captain Simon Miller to Captain Sir Charles Douglas

[Pigeon Island, St. Lucia, March, 1782?]

Sir

I have the honor to represent to you, that the People landed from the Deal Castle and Camelion, in October 1780 under my Command, for the defence of this Island, have since the Sailing of the Etna from this country, not been borne on any Ships Books for Wages, nor have they since their first landing been but once supplied with Slops, and are now exceedingly distressed. Circumstanced under such difficulties, they have expressed themselves very dissatisfied, and are daily importuning me, to intreat for a redress to so great a hardship, and as opportunity has not been so favourable as at this time, to set forth their misfortune, I hope they will now be consider'd.

I have therefore to request that you will please to solicit of the Admiral, to establish them on some footing if it becomes his pleasure to continue them here, so as securing them wages and fixing some method that they may be supplied with Clothing or that they be allowed to

join some Ship, which acquiescence will be doing them the greatest favor. I have the honor to remain Sir &c.

M. MILLER

Sir Chas. Douglass Bt:

From Captain Hugh Cloberry Christian

La Fortunée off Barbadoes
March 1st 1782.

Sir,

I have the Honor to make known to you that in Obedience to the Orders of Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood dated the 22d of February last I proceeded with the Pegasus to watch the motions of the Enemy's Fleet, to afford support to the Garrison of St. Lucia by leaving the Pegasus in case that Island should be threatened with an Attack and then to join him with the Fortunée at Barbadoes.

Great Part of the Enemy's Fleet having been seen going into Port Royal on the morning of the 26th and many others to Leeward had determined me to dispatch a Schooner to Barbadoes with the Intelligence, and (agreeable to the requisition of Major Gen^l St. Leger) to remain with the Pegasus for the protection of the Island no other Ship of War being then at St. Lucia except the St. Eustatius and St. Vincente. I made the necessary disposition for that purpose but on the arrival of Captⁿ Savage with the Hercules I judged it expedient to proceed with the Frigates to Barbadoes, in hopes that I should find you and the Fleet at that Anchorage, the more particularly as Captain Savage informed me that he saw Sir Sam^l Hood's Squadron to Windward off Barbadoes, and that he supposed the Fleet would be in Carlisle Bay by time of our arrival I conceived it of much consequence that you should know the Enemy had reached Martinique and therefore did not wait at St. Lucia for Water which the Pegasus and Fortune are both in want of. this Evening will I hope permit us to

compleat, and should I see nothing of the Fleet by Sunday I will proceed to Windward of Martinique in search of you, looking first into St. Lucia. I am &c.

HUGH CHRISTIAN

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Sir Formidable at Sea 1st March 1782

Having received Information that there are several Danish Vessels now at Barbadoes, loaded with Provisions; I cannot omit taking the Liberty to represent the same to your Excellency, and to express my desire, that you will be pleas'd, not to allow any Provisions to be shipd in any neutral Vessels; as the doing it, can be only with a design to supply the Enemy and is directly contrary to the Act of Navigation, that Paladium of British Power, British Goods in British Bottoms, and may be very prejudicial, to His Majesty's Service, surely Danes should not be permitted to come to Barbadoes, or at least not to be allowed to stay.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Regard and Esteem, Sir

Your Excellency's Most obedient and most Humble Servant

G. B. RODNEY

His Excellency General Cunningham &c. &c. &c.

From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Sir Tickler English Harbour March 1st 1782

The Lizard arrived this day with the Whitby Store ship having been chased into this Port by a ship of the

Line which Captain Dodd concludes must be an Enemy from Circumstances he will have the honor of relating to you by which it appears, she is cruizing to Windward of this Island. He will sail again to join you early to morrow and I presume it will be right to keep the Store ship untill a better opportunity offers of sending her to You.

The Nymph will be out of Hands in a few days she shall sail to join you the Instant she is ready as also the Berbice Schooner.

The inclosed Letter I received from his Excellency Governor Shirley and I conclude from the tenour of it one for you was intended to have accompanied it which however did not reach me.

I have the honor to be with great Respect, Sir &c.

JN^O LAFOREY

Sir G. B. Rodney Bt: K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sir Barfleur Gros Islet Bay March 1st 1782

I have the honor to send you an Account of French Prisoners sent to the Count De Grasse as well as that of English Prisoners he returned in the Convert.

Also an Account of State of the Anchors of the Squadron.

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

SAM^L HOOD

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart: K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Captain George Day

Sir Formidable at Sea 1 March 1782

I am much surpriz'd you omitted shewing my orders to Sir James Wallace, for his remaining at Barbadoes or St. Lucia till further orders.

I must desire you will please to be particularly carefull in shewing the inclosed orders to every Ship of War that may arrive at Barbadoes, remaining yourself in Carlisle Bay till further Orders, and you will please to inform me as soon as possible if the Storekeeper has purchased the two Ships agreeable to my directions.

You will please to put fifty of the best Men brought to Barbadoes from Demarara in the Stormont on board the Sybil.

I have the honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Captain Day
Surprize

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable in Gross Islet Bay St. Lucia
2d March 1782

Dear Sir

I have received Intelligence that makes it absolutely necessary, that not one Moment should be lost, in watering the Fleet, and taking speedily on board, what Provisions can be procur'd.

I have wrote to Admiral Drake, on the same head, and desir'd, that Night and Day may be employed, in completing his Squadron.

The Invincible is so extremely leaky, that after ordering her to be survey'd, the report to me is, that she cannot possibly, be put in a Condition, to cruize with the Fleet, without being hove down. I shall therefore send her to Jamaica this Night, with my Dispatches, and hope she may be put in a condition to serve should the Enemy oblige us to go to the assistance of that Island.

The Centaur's fore Mast, must come out, I have sent to the Careenage, to know if there is a mast fit for her as I am told there is.

As your Ships are water'd I must desire you will send them to Gros Islet Bay and to anchor on the South side.

You may depend if I hear any News of consequence that I will inform you, the last Account of the French Fleet says they were between Dominique and Guadeloupe the Ships are not returned from reconnoitring Fort Royal.

I have the honor to be with great Regard D^r Sir

Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Sir Sam^l Hood Bart.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable in Gross Islet Bay St. Lucia

2d March 1782

Dear Sir

The Intelligence I have received makes it absolutely necessary that not one Moment should be lost in completing the Water Night and Day.

As your Ships compleat their Water, I could wish you would order them up, giving directions to the Captains to anchor at a proper distance from the Ships now here, and not to go within them.

I have the honor to be D^r Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Rear Adm^l Drake

From Captain George Day

Surprize Carlisle Bay Barbadoes

3d March 1782

Sir

This morning I had the honor of your Letter by Captain Keppel of His Majesty's Sloop Germaine, and with great respect beg leave to acquaint you, that on the Arrival of His Majesty's Ships Warrior, St. Monica, and Sybil, the St. Monica anchor'd first, and I immediately waited on Captain Linzey and shew'd him what Orders,

and Letters you was pleased to intrust me with; and as soon as Sir James Wallace anchor'd I did the same but the two Letters addressed to Captain Shirley was return'd to me unopen'd; & did not take notice that one of them was to Captain Shirley, or the Commanding Officer of His Maj^s Ships arriving at Barbadoes; I ask pardon for my Omission for if I had, would have taken the Liberty of mentioning of it to them. At the arrival of His Maj^s Ships Fortunée and Pegasus I immediately waited on Capt: Christian, which Letter he open'd, and I shew'd him every other Paper I had in my Possession, On His Majesty's Service which he has return'd.

I beg leave to acquaint you, that nothing was done by the Storekeeper concerning the purchase of the Two Privateers for want of proper Officers, till the Arrival of Captain Christian who immediately gave Directions to have them Survey'd which has been done; And the reports of the Survey are in his Possession.

You may depend upon my being Particularly carefull in shewing the Orders I have received to every Ship of War that may arrive at Barbadoes.

As soon as the Sybil arrives the Men mention'd in your Order shall be immediately put on board her.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir &c.

GEO. DAY

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain Robert Barbor

Fame Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia

3d March 1782

Sir

I am to desire You'll give orders for a Court Martial being Assembled to try the Six men named in the margin ¹ for Mutinously assembling, Beating, and otherwise

¹ Wm. Heath, Wm. Jenkins, Jas. Morewood, Jno. Mason, Geo: Tillick, Tho. Ecclestone

Ill treating, Evan Pollard, Boatswain's Mate (their Officer) when in the Execution of his Duty, on the 2d day of this month of March 1782. I am Sir &c.

R: BARBOR

To Sir G. B. Rodney

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Barbadoes 3d March 1782

Sir

I had the Honor to write to Your Excellency by Sir James Wallace, and to make an application for a Supply of Small Arms for the use of this Island which Letter I hope You have received.

Since your Departure from hence the Second Cartel arrived from Demerary; as we have not for some Time had any French Prisoners, here to exchange for our Officers, and Men, Receipts were given for 11 of the Former and 259 of the latter; after which both Vessels were dispatch'd agreeable to their Flag to Demerary, although the auxiliary Lieutenant who Commanded them, had a great Inclination to visit Martinique, in order to accomplish which he gave himself many Airs, but was treated as he deserved.

I have the Honor to enclose to your Excellency an Extract from a Letter of the Secretary of State, relative to American Prisoners; we have now here 197 taken in armed, and 57 taken in unarmed Vessels. I shall be glad to know if you have received any other Directions from home on the Subject, and whether as you once proposed those taken in armed Vessels should be sent to St. Lucia, for our Prison is now over flowing.

Lieutenants Andrews, & Cole of the Navy, who were taken some time ago by the Stalker American Privateer, have lately been exchanged for Two Masters of American armed Vessels agreeable to the Parole they gave.

We are very much infested here by small Vessels, under the sanction of the Danish Flag; some come as flags of Truce; to me an unaccountable Thing; what Treatment would your Excellency wish I should give these People? many I fear Come here for no good Purpose.

I have the Honor to be with the highest Respect and Regard,

Your Excellency's Most obedient & most faithful Humble Servant

JAS. CUNNINGHAM

To Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Barbadoes 4th March 1782

Sir

As I have thought proper to stop the sailing of any Vessels from this Port, in order to prevent the Chance of Provisions being carried away, which the Fleet may be in Want of, and as the Embargoes make the Merchants very clamorous, I flatter myself you will not delay Communicating to me your Wishes on this Head.

As I mentioned to You in my Letter of Yesterday, I shall detain all the neutral Vessels, as well those that call themselves flags of Truce and others till I hear from You on the Subject.

I cannot conceive flags of Truce necessary to Neutral Vessels.

I have the Honor to be with the highest Respect and Regard

Your Excellency's &c. &c.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM

To Sir Geo. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain John Stanhope

Pegasus St. Lucia 4th March 1782

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint You that Mr. William Mackarell, Boatswain of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, has been for a length of time guilty of Drunkenness and neglect of Duty.

I am therefore to request that You will be pleased to Direct a Court Martial to be assembled, in order to His being tryed for the said Offences, He being in Arrest for the same. I am &c.

J^N STANHOPE

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Barbadoes 4th March 1782

Sir

In obedience to your Order of the 19th past, the Scourge and Roade Privateers lately captured, have been surveyed, and herewith I inclose copies of the Reports with the valuation of their Hulls, Masts, Rigging, Ordnance and Furniture and I humbly pray your further directions concerning them, & whether I am to supply them with such Articles, as may be necessary to equip them for their proceeding to you; and into whose Charge I am to deliver them.

I am with the greatest respect Sir

Your most obedient &c. &c.

WILL^M RAGGETT

Sir Geo. G. Rodney Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

Pursuant to an Order from Sir G. B. Rodney Bart:
K: B: Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief
&c. &c. &c.

We whose names are hereunto written Have been on board the Prize Ship Scourge, lately Captur'd from the Enemy By His Majesty's Ship Prothée, and we have taken a strict and impartial Survey on the Hull, Rigging, Furniture and Warlike Stores of the said Ship and find them as follows.

Built in New England Age 12 Months, appears to be very well fitted and built of New England Oak.

Hull burthen of 240 Tons

	£	s	d
Masts and Yards Compleat			
Length on the Gun Deck from Rabbit 98 feet			
Breadths Extream 23 feet 8:	1560	0	0
Depth in the Hold 10 feet 6:			
Main Yard, Spare, One in No:			
Topsail Yard, Do: One			
Jibb Boom, One			
Main top Mast Studd ^e sail Boom, Two			
Top Gall ^t Mast Spare, Two			
Top Gall ^t Yard, One			
Iron Stantions, Fourteen			
Crutches, Two			
Stair Casse, One			
Pins & Chains for Capstern bars, Eight			
Poop Lathorn, One			
Wood Ship Tillers, One			
Capston Bars, Eight			
Hand Pump fitted with Brass Clamps, Two			
Lead Pumps, Two			
Do: for the Head, One			
Pump Spears, Six			
“ Breaks, Six			
Boxes Upper, Six			
“ Lower, Six			
Bell Watch, One			
“ Cabin, One			
Copper Chimney, One			
Half ports, Eight			
Hatch Barrs, Three			
Caboose Iron, One			
Ensign Staff, One, Bittacle One, Hencoop One			
Dead Lights Sett, One			
Boom Irons, Four			
	360	0	0

BOATSWAINS STORES

Sails

- Main & Fore top Gall^t Royals, $\frac{1}{2}$ worn
- 1 Lower Studding Sail, $\frac{1}{3}$ worn
- 2 Main Topm^t Studd^e Sails, $\frac{2}{3}$ worn
- 1 Main Coarse, New
- 1 Main Topm^t Stay sail, New
- 1 Mizen Topm^t Stay sail, $\frac{1}{2}$ worn
- 1 Fore topm^t Stay sail, New $\frac{1}{2}$ worn

	£	s	d
1 Jibb, $\frac{1}{2}$ worn			
1 Sprit Sail Topsail, $\frac{1}{2}$ worn			
1 Main Topm ^t Stay Sail, $\frac{2}{3}$ worn			
1 Square Driver much Cut and Worn			
1 Topm ^t Studd ^e Sail, $\frac{1}{2}$ worn			
1 Top Gall ^t Studd ^e Sail			
1 Top Gall ^t Stay Sail much Cut & Worn			
1 Middle Stay Sail, much Cut and Worn			
1 Main Topsail, New			
1 Main Topsail, New			
1 Fore Topgallant Sail, $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn			
Sails to the Yards			
Fore, Main & Mizen Course, $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn			
Fore, Main & Mizen Topsails, $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn			
1 Boom Mizen, $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn			
2 Bower Anchors about 1000 lb. W: each			
2 Bower Cables of 11 in: each, one $\frac{1}{3}$ the other $\frac{2}{3}$ Worn			
1 Kedge Anchor of 200 lb. W:			
1 Hawser of 6 In: $\frac{1}{2}$ d Worn			
Part of 6 In: Hawser New 40 fathom			
1 Messenger, $\frac{1}{3}$ Worn			
Rope of 2 In: New One Coil			
" of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " " "			
Ship Sweeps $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn Eighteen No:			
Standing, running rigging Comp ^t $\frac{2}{3}$ d Worn			
Compass Brass Box			Two
" Wood			One
Half Minute Glass			One
Half Hour "			One
Shackle Bolts			One
To " Irons			Eight
Hand Lead			One
" Line			One
Iron Pots set in Brick work below			Two
Buoys			Two
" Ropes			Two
Pinnacle of 26.6 Length	215	0	0
" Oars			Four
Cutter of 15.0			One
" Oars			Four
	37	0	0
ORDNANCE STORES			
Iron Ordnance 6 pounders			Eighteen
Ships Carriages w ^h Beds and Coins			Eighteen
Trucks spare 6 pd ^{rs}			Four & Four
Round Shot 6 pd ^{rs}			Five hundred
Grape ditto			Twenty
Cannonades 18 pd ^{rs}			Two
Cannonades Carriage Comp ^t			Two
Round Shot 18 pd ^{rs}			One Hundred
Double headed Hammer'd Shot 6 pd ^{rs}			Two Hundred
Paper Cartridges of 6 pd ^{rs}			Forty
Copper Powder Measures 2 pd ^{rs}			One
" Adze			One
Cases of Wood 6 pd ^{rs}			Eighteen
" for the Cannonades 18 pd ^{rs}			Two

		£	s	d
Ladles & Spunges Comp ^t				
w ^h Staves 6 pd ^{rs}	Twenty			
Rope Spunges w ^h Rammer heads 6 pd ^{rs}	Eight			
Wad Hooks Compleat 6 pd ^{rs}	Six			
Tampion for Guns 6 pd ^{rs}	Forty			
Corn Powder in whole barrels	Four	10	0	0
Powder in filled Cartridges 6 Pd ^{rs}	150 Lbs.			
Match[e]s	Twenty			
Powder Horns	Twenty			
Aprons Lead	Twenty			
Hand Crow livers of 5 feet	Eighteen			
Crows of Iron 4¼	Twelve			
Breechins of 4¼	Eighteen			
Tacles Compleat with Blocks & hooks	Forty			
Musketoons				
Bright	Eight			
Black	Eighteen			
Bayonets Compleat	Fourteen			
Musketoons	Six			
Pistols with Ribbs	Six			
Cartouch Boxes without Belts or frogs	Six			
Strong Pikes	Twenty two			
Musquet Cartridges Ball'd	Five Hundred	450	0	0
Iron Bound Casks				
Number of differ ^t sizes	Thirty Tons	30	0	0
Iron Hoops	Six hundred			
		£2662	0	0

All which we find as herein Specified and We Do Declare that we have Taken this Survey with Such Care and Equity That if Required We are ready to make Oath, to the impartiality of Our Proceedings and the valuation of the Premises to the Best of Our Judgment.

Given under our hands on board the said Ship in Carlisle Bay, Barbados 2d Mar: 1782

JOHN CONGALTON	} Masters	Fortunée
WILL ^M SCOTT		Pegasus
THOS. CLEMENTS		Surprize

JOHN MCPHAILL	Gun ^r	Fortunée
CHAS. SIMPILL	Gun ^r	Pegasus
W. HINTON	Gun ^r	Surprize

WM. YELLAND	Carpt ^r	Fortunee
WM. GRAY	Carpt ^r	Pegasus
JOHN MELISON	Carpt ^r	Surprize

Pursuant to an Order from Sir George Bridges Rodney Bart. K. B. Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

We whose Names are hereunto Written, have been on board the Prize Ship *Road*, lately Captured from the Enemy by His Majesty's Ship *Prothée*, and have taken a strict & impartial survey on the Hull, Rigging and Furniture and find as follows

	feet	in	£	s	d
Length on the Gun Deck f ^m Rabbit to Rab ^t	92	0			
Breadth Extreame	25	2			
Depth in the Hold	10	6			
			1300	0	0

The Main Mast Sprung above the Rigging and appears to us to be Unservic[e]able

The Foremast Sprung above the Rigging and appears to us to be Unserviceable

Fore Yard Spare	One				
Fore Top Mast	One				
Jibb Boom	One				
Top Gall ^t Mast	Two				
Hen Coops	Two				
Hand Pumps	Two				
Iron Stantions	Two				
Upper Boxes	Three				
Lower	Three				
Spiers	Three				
Hooks	One				
Dead Lights	Four				
Capstern Bars	Eight				
Bittacle	One				
Bells, Watch	Three				
Hatch Barrs	Four				
Boom Irons	One				
Grind Stones	Two				
Fire hearths	Two				
Pump Breaks	Two				
Iron Stantions	Sixteen				
Glass Stone Ground Panes	Seventeen				
Arm Chests	Three				
Boats Crutchetts	Eight				
Plank Elm 4 Inch	Fourteen feet				
			200	0	0

BOATSWAINS STORES

Fore Top Sail $\frac{3}{4}$ Worn	One
Main Topmast Stay Sail $\frac{1}{3}$ d Worn	One
Fore Course } $\frac{2}{3}$ ds Worn	One
Main ditto }	
Jibb $\frac{2}{3}$ ds Worn	One
Main Stay Sail New	One

	£	s	d
Main Top Sail $\frac{2}{3}$ d Worn	One		
Main topm ^t studing Sail New	One		
Ditto $\frac{2}{3}$ d Worn	One		
Fore Top M ^t Stud ^e sail $\frac{2}{3}$ d Worn	One		
Sails Bent to the Yards			
Fore Course Little Worn	One		
Main " Little Worn	One		
Mizen " Half Worn	One		
Fore Top: Sail half	One		
Mizen " half	One		
Main Topgall ^t Sail, half worn	One		
Jibb	One		
Fore topm ^t Stay Sail Half Worn	One		
Mizen Stay Sail Half Worn	One		
Bower Anchor Suppos'd 1000 lb. Wt.	One		
Standing Rigging, Compleat half Worn Except Main Topm ^t Shr ^{ds} and Backstays, Main Topg ^t Shrouds and Backstays, Cut and Unfit for Service			
Running Rigging $\frac{3}{4}$ Comp ^t half Worn			
Driver $\frac{2}{3}$ d Worn	One		
Mizen Topm ^t Stay Sail $\frac{1}{2}$ Worn	One		
Ship Sweeps	Fourteen		
Copper Boiler	One		
Main Topgall ^t Royal New	One		
Brass Box Compass	One		
Wood ditto	Two		
Half hour Glasses	Two		
Two hour Glass	One		
Half minute d ^o	Three		
Quarter d ^o	One		
Blocks of different Sorts	Thirty Six		
A Pair of Steel Yards & Pea	One		
Iron bound Casks 72 24 Ton }	350	0	0
" Hoops Four Hundred }	30	0	0
Eight Oar'd Pinnace 24 ft: in Length }	36	0	0
Small Cutter 14 feet 4 Oars			

ORDNANCE STORES

Iron Ordnance 6 Pounders	Twenty two
Ship Carriages with Beds & Coins	Twenty two
Trucks Spare, Fore and hind	Three & Three
Round Shot, 6 Pd ^{rs}	Six hundred & Eighty
Grape d ^o in bags	Two hundred
Double head hammer'd Shot 6 Pd ^{rs}	Two hundred & Eighty
Paper Cartridges 6 Pd ^{rs}	Two hundred
Cases of Wood 6	Eight
Ladles & Spunges w th Staves Comp ^t 6 Pd ^{rs}	Ten
Corned Powder whole barrels	Nine
Powder horns	Thirteen
Aprons Lead	Twenty two
Hand Crow livers of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet	Twenty two
Iron Crows of 4 feet	Five
Breechings 5 Inches	Twenty seven

	£	s	d
Tackles with Blocks Compleat	Fifty		
Tarrd Rope spare			
5 Inch	Twelve	fath ^s	
1½	Twenty		
Blocks Spare of 6 D ^s	Twenty		
Junk	Three	hund ^d	W ^t
Muskets Black	Twenty		
Bayonets Compl ^t	Five		
Cartouch Boxes, with Belts	Eleven		
Swords without Scabbards	Ten		
Strong Pikes	Ten		
	700	0	0
	<hr/>		
	Sterl ^s £2616	0	0

Sign'd, Dated &c: as the foregoing

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Formidable in Gros Is[le] Bay 5th March 1782

Sir

I am favor'd with your Letter by the Lizard and desire you will please to send up the Storeship under Convoy of the Nymph and Warrior (if she is at your Island) with all possible Dispatch, as the Stores are much wanted at this Island.

General Shirley may be assur'd that as soon as I can possibly spare a frigate, I shall send her with my Dispatches to Great Britain. The Captain of the said Frigate will be directed to call at Antigua for His Excellency's Commands.

In regard to the Enemy's Line of Battle Ship that is suppos'd to be to Windward of your Island I shall instantly detach Ships in quest of her, and hope you will see her in a short Time at English Harbour.

As many of the Fleet under Sir Sam: Hood, are in want of great repair, I could wish you would send from your Yard some Ship Wrights, to assist Mr. Bignell the Master Shipwright here.

Inclosed I send you orders which I think absolutely necessary, in Case your Island should be attacked.

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir
Yours, &c.

G. B. RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r &c. &c.

P. S. The Enemy's Fleet arrived at Port Royal the day I joined Sir Sam^l Hood, to windward of your Island. I am this day joined by the Valiant from England, who sailed with the Duke and is hourly expected.

To Captain George Day

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay
5th Mar: 1782

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 3d Instant from Barbadoes, informing me of the Arrival of several of His Majesty's Ships there, and the Manner of your Proceedings relative to the shewing them the Orders I left in your Charge. I trust that in future, You will be more attentive to the Address of Orders left with You, for Delivery an Inattention of that kind, may be attended with fatal Consequences to His Majesty's Service.

In the present Instance, the Warrior not having yet join'd me must be attributed thereto, as Sir James Wallace (had he read the Order left with you for Captain Shirley or the Commanding Officer arriving at Barbadoes) would not have gone to Antigua.

You are to compleat the number of Men you are at present short of from those brought from Demerary. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Capt. Day
Surprize

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Formidable, Gros Islet Bay
5th Mar^h 1782

Sir

I am honor'd with your Excellency's Letters of the 3d & 4th of March and must intreat you that you will not permit any Provisions to be shiped from your Island, in neutral or British Bottoms, and that you will please to give Directions that the strictest attention be paid towards the Danish Flags of Truce, who I am convinced come to give the Enemy Intelligence and supply them with Provisions.

I have sent Capt: McLawren to your Excellency, who will inform you of a pernicious Correspondence carrying on, between some of the Inhabitants of Bridge Town and the Enemy's Islands and you may depend that if you allow Provisions to be shiped, even for the Island of St. Lucia, unless for the use of the Army and Navy, that those Provisions are meant for the Enemy's Island and as the Enemy's Fleet now in Port Royal Bay, are in the greatest want of Provisions, that you will coincide with me in Opinion, that it is our Duty to prevent, as far as lays in our Power their receiving any.

In regard to the American Prisoners of War I have directed Capt: McLaurin to receive 50 on board, and every Ship, shall receive in Proportion, in order to their being brought to St. Lucia, when proper Opportunity offers those taken in Merchant Ships should be allowed to go two at a time in the Trade bound to Great Britain, at present they would only Man the Enemys Privateers.

I have not as yet received your Excellencys Letter, which you acquaint me you sent by Sir James Wallace, so that I cannot tell what Number of small Arms you have demanded but your Excellency may depend upon my supplying you, as far as lays in my Power.

In regard to the Embargo at your Island, I cannot

have the least objection to its being taken off, but flatter myself your Excellency will agree with me, that the Danish Flags of Truce should be discouraged by all means possible, and the Shipping of Provisions except for the Kings Service prevented. I have the honor to be with the highest regard Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Cunningham &c. &c.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay
5 March 1782

Sir

Inclosed is a demand for Stores which as they are not to be procured at St. Lucia, I must request you would send to Pigeon Island so soon as possible.

You will please to send Mr. Richard Dickeson late Carpenter of the Reynard hither, and as many Ship Wrights as can be spared from the Yard at Antigua as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be with great regard, Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To J. Laforey Esq^r &c.

To Major General John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica

March 5th 1782

Sir

On the 19th February after five Weeks Passage with the Fleet under my Command, I arrived in Carlisle Bay Barbadoes, and instantly sail'd to join the Fleet under the Command of Sir Samuel Hood in hopes of brin[g]ing

the Enemy's Fleet to Battle, and saving the Island of St. Christopher's which I hear'd they were then Beseiging.

On my Arrival off Antigua on the 23d of February, my hopes were disappointed on receiving Intelligence that St. Christophers had surrender'd, and that Sir Sam^l Hood with the Fleet under his Command were Sail'd for Barbadoes, and the Enemy's Fleet toward Martinique.

On the 25th Instant I had the good fortune to join Sir Samuel Hood to Windward of Antigua, every endeavour was used to arrive off Martinique before the Enemy, but they had the good fortune to shelter themselves in Fort Royal Bay before we got the length of that Island, where they are now refitting their Shatter'd Fleet, and where you may be assured that every attention shall be paid to their Motions, which I am convinced by every Intelligence I have been able to procure meditate an Attack on the Island of Jamaica, who's protection I have so much at Heart, that I beg you will convince the Inhabitants that, they may depend upon the whole Force under my Command (which consists of near forty Ships of the Line) for their Protection, should the Enemy make a Movement with their Fleet to Leeward; but at all events they may depend upon a strong Convoy with their Trade which I hourly expect from Great Britain.

I have wrote to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships employed on your Station to send me constant Intelligence by the Swiftest Sailing Vessels He can possibly procure of the Situation of Affairs in your Island, that I may send speedy Succours, shoul'd Occasion require it, being fully convinced that Jamaica cannot be taken while I have the honor to command so large a Fleet in these Seas, and animated with a mind firmly determined to support it's preservation, at all events, and that Numbers may not be wanted to defend so important a Jewel from being wrested from the Crown of Great Britain. I have given Orders, that One hundred stout Seamen with proper Officers from each of the Line of Battle Ships may be Disciplined and Trained to small

Arms to act as Soldiers on Shore shoul'd there be an Occasion for their Landing, these with the Marines of the Fleet, with the Troops hourly expected from Great Britain with your Troops and Militia already in your Island who I am sure from my knowledge of their Bravery and Love to their Country, will do their Duty and make the Enemy, who may attempt to attack Jamaica repent of their Temerity.

I mention these things only to convince the Gentlemen of your Island how much I have the Preservation of their Island at Heart, and how much my attention has been taken up towards so a desirable purpose.

I beg you will be assured that I am with the highest Regard

Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Governor Dalling
Jamaica

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay, St. Lucia
5th March 1782

Sir

I am to inform you of my Arrival in these Seas, with twelve sail of the Line and that two others have joined me since from England, and altho' I came too late to save the Islands of St. Christophers, Nevis and Mountserrat, I flatter myself an end is now put, to the Enemy's Conquests, and that every opportunity shall be taken, to bring them to a General Battle. If they will not give me an opportunity in these Seas, I have not a doubt but a General Battle must ensue in the seas adjacent to your Station, as I am fully convinced they meditate an Attack upon Jamaica in conjunction with the Spaniards, which it shall be my Business as far as it lies in my power to Prevent, and you may be assured that the whole force under my Command (should the Enemy

make a movement to Leeward) shall hasten to the assistance of Jamaica; I must therefore recommend it to you that the Squadron under your command be kept in readiness to join me either off the East End of Jamaica, or off the Islands of St. Domingo.

You may be assured that I shall give you proper notice of the approach of the Fleet under my Command and must desire you will please to acquaint the Inhabitants that they may depend upon the Assistance of the Great Fleet, now in these Seas, and that as I daily expect a large Convoy from Great Britain bound to their Island, I shall hasten it to Jamaica under a strong Convoy.

And whereas I am directed by my Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Admiralty to employ the fastest sailing Vessels that can be procured in order to keep up a constant Correspondence between this Station, Jamaica, and North America, I must recommend it to you in pursuance of the said Orders, to procure such Vessels at your Island, having given myself directions to Commissioner Laforey to purchase such Vessels for this Station, and I must recommend it to you in the strongest manner that you will constantly acquaint me with the Situation of Affairs at Jamaica and the strength of the Enemy at St. Domingo that I may have timely notice to send necessary Reinforcements.

I have the honor to be with great Regard, Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker

or the Commander in Chief of H. M. Ships
Jamaica

P. S. On my arrival here I was in hopes of meeting with the Sandwich agreeable to my request to you, but I suppose her condition is such as to have render'd it impossible. her Assistance and the London's ¹ would have

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] had these Ships been sent, the Isle of Saint Christophers had never been taken.

been of infinite consequence to his Maj^s Service in the late action with the Enemy's Fleet, under Sir Sam. Hood.

From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Fergus Paterson

Formidable, Gros Islet Bay, St. Lucia
6 Mar^h 1782

Sir

I am directed by the Admiral to acquaint You, that He is exceedingly displeased that the Ships which have demanded their Provisions are not yet Supply'd as some which are wanted for Sea cannot proceed on that account, and that if it is not more attentively performed in future, He shall break the Contract.

I am Sir &c.

WILL^M PAGETT

P. S. I am directed further to Add that He expects all the Craft that can at any Rate be procured to be employed by you, on this Service. He expects likewise that you purchase all the Bread that is to be had.

Fer^s Paterson Esq^r

Agent to Mr: Shirley

To Vice Admiral Comte de Grasse

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay
6th March 1782

Sir

On my arrival in these Seas to take upon me the Command of the King, my Master's Fleet, I am informed by Rear Admiral Hood (upon whom the Command devolved during my absence) that a Cartel had been settled between your Excellency and him, relative to Pris-

oners of War—the exchange to be made by Frigates of War bearing a Cartel.

Your Excellency's humanity in endeavouring to mitigate the severities of War and alleviating the misfortune of those brave men who had done their Duty to their King and Country, must meet with my hearty concurrence.

The Moment I was acquainted with this humane disposition, I sent orders to the Commissaries of Prisoners immediately to release all the French Prisoners of War that were in the different Islands, that they might be conveyed to your Excellency in a Frigate of War bearing a Cartel with the most positive Orders, to commit no act of hostility till she return again into a British Port, and perceiving by the State of Prisoners your Excellency had sent by His Maj^s Frigate the *Convert*, Capt: Harvey, that a Balance of 52 Prisoners were due to the French, I thought it incumbent upon me to send every Prisoner of War now in St. Lucia to your Excellency and have given Orders that whatever number may be at Barbadoes (if any) shall be likewise sent to you.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect and esteem

Your Excellency's most obed^t &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Count De Grasse

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable in St. Lucia 7th March 1782

Sir

His Majesty's Ship the *Duke* has this moment join'd me from Great Britain, and has brought me a Copy of your Secret Orders dated the 11th of January last, wherein the King's pleasure has been signified by Lord George Germaine one of His Maj^s Principal Secretaries

of State, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that they should direct you forthwith to send all the Line of Battle Ships, now under your Command, as also such of the Frigates, as you think cannot be Usefully employed in the Defence of the said Island, or procuring Intelligence of the Motions of the Enemy, to join me with all possible dispatch to St. Lucia.

If you have not already sent the Line of Battle Ships, I think it a Duty incumbent upon me, to acquaint you, that I think it necessary for his Maj^s Service, and for the Protection of Jamaica, that you detain them under your Command, as I think I have sufficient force in these Seas to Defeat the designs of the Enemy, should they give me an Opportunity of bringing them to Battle.

And as I have received Intelligence that Six Spanish Ships of War carrying four Thousand Troops were sail'd from Cadiz in Order to meet at the General Rendezvous of the Combined Force of France and Spain (which wou'd be at Guarico or Cumberland Harbour) opposite Jamaica, which Spanish Ships I shall attempt to stop in these Seas, but should they escape me, it will be Necessary that I am informed with all the dispatch Possible, of their Arrival, and their Motions by your quickest sailing Frigates,¹ agreeable to the last Article of your Secret Orders of the 11 of January.

One Frigate may make her Passage to the Northward, another to the south of St. Domingo, by which means, I shall be sure of receiving Intelligence and shall act Accordingly.

Inclosed I send a Copy of the Secret Orders transmitted to me from the Admiralty.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Joshua Rowley Esq^r or

The Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

Jamaica

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N B. this advice totally neglected

*From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell to Major
General Edward Mathew*

Jamaica 8th March 1782

Sir,

I have the Honor to acquaint you that by Intelligence from Europe, the Armaments fitted out at Brest and Cadiz are intended to form an Attack on this Island I am likewise inform'd their Combin'd force will consist of Thirty two thousand Regular and Eight thousand Irregulars and that the beginning of next Month is appointed for this important enterprize.

We have received Accounts of a part of the Spanish Force being arrived at Cape Francois and Mole St. Nicholas in Hispaniola which are said to be the places of Rendezvous so that it is probable Jamaica will be very soon invaded. It is therefore my indispensible duty to request that you will be pleased to forward such Assistance for the protection of this Valuable Island as shall be admissible with the State of His Majesty's Affairs in your Quarter. And I trust I shall be enabled by the Admiral Commanding His Majesty's Ships here in the event of Invasion to have Vessels stationed so as to give Intelligence to the Detachments which may be sent for our Relief of the safest mode of approaching the Island and where to Land the Troops. I am Sir &c.

(signed) ARCH^D CAMPBELL

To Gen^l Mathews

or the Officer Commanding his Majesty's Troops to
Windward

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Formidable in Gros Island Bay St. Lucia

8 March 1782

Sir

Having received undoubted Intelligence that the French Islands are in the greatest distress for want of

Provisions, and that those in particular which they have lately Conquer'd are destitute of almost every Species.

And whereas there has been several instances of Vessels sailing from His Majesty's Islands with Provisions for the Publick Enemy, and which (if continued) must be attended with the most fatal consequence.

I must in the most pressing manner request you will cause a very strict attention to be paid to such Vessels as may be now laying at Barbadoes, and on no account whatever permit any to Sail, which may be loaded with Provisions bound to any other of His Majesty's Islands, but under a strong Convoy of Ships of War, which I shall order for their protection.

I have the Honor to be with great regard, Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency General Cunningham

Bar[ba]does

A Similar Letter as the afore written to His Excellency General Shirley at Antigua.

*From Major General Thomas Shirley, Governor of the
Leeward Islands*

Antigua March 9th 1782

Sir,

In compliance with the request of the Council and Assembly of the Island of Nevis signified by a Letter of which the enclosed is a Copy, I beg leave to inform you that by the 16th Article of their Capitulation provision has been made for the safe Conduct of all Vessels bound from Europe with Supplies to that Island for the space of Six Months and as the Advantages we are to gain by the terms must depend very much on the Planters receiving those Supplies, and a large number of Proprie-

tors in England being greatly interested therein, I am sure I need urge no additional reason to influence you to permit such of their Shipping, as shall arrive in any port within your Station to proceed to the Island of Nevis.

I have the honor to be &c.

THOS. SHIRLEY

To Sir G. B. Rodney

From Captain Hugh Cloberry Christian

L'Fortunée in Gros Islet Bay, St. Lucia
March 9, 1782

Sir

The enclosed Letter I received this Morning from Lieutenant Andrew Waide, second Lieutenant of His Maj^a Ship under my command.

I am to add to its contents, that he has for some Weeks been incapable of His Duty from Rheumatick complaints; & therefore request that you will be pleas'd to direct a Survey of Surgeons upon him,

With Respect I have the Honor to be Sir

Y^{rs} &c.

HUGH CHRISTIAN

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From Captain Alan Gardner

Duke, Gros Islet Bay March 9th 1782

Sir

Inclosed I have the Honor of transmitting to you a Letter I have received from Mr. Sampson Mitchell 2d Lieut. of His Majesty's Ship Duke under my Command complaining of His ill state of Health which I beg leave to submit to your consideration, and should the said

Lieutenant be found unfit to serve in this Climate I shall esteem it a particular favor if You will be soon good as to appoint to the Duke in His room Lieut: Boyle who I brot: out a Volunteer and who I am informed is strongly recommended to Your favor and protection.

I have the honor to be Sir

Yours &c.

A GARDNER

Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c.

To Captain Alan Gardner

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia

9th March 1782

Sir

I am directed by the Admiral to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of this day, inclosing one from Lieut: Mitchell to You, and to acquaint you that in Consequence thereof he has given Orders for Lieut. Boyle to be Commission'd for the Duke in the Room of Lieutenant Mitchell who has his Permission to quit on Account of his Health.

I am &c.

WM. PAGETT

To Capt: Gardner of H. M. S. Duke

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Dear Sir

Formidable 9th March 1782

As the service ¹ you will soon be on, requires dispatch, I must beg you will compleat your Water and Provisions,

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] N B. this service was to retake the Island of Monserat, but was prevented by the Enemys Fleet being ready to sail, which required all our Force

as soon as possible, and as General Mathews will proceed with you on an Expedition of some Consequence, I should be glad that you receive him on board your own Ship, that the Publick Service, may be carried on with greater dispatch than it can otherwise possibly be.

I must desire you would please to acquaint the General, who is now at the Morne, and be so obliging to send your Boats for what little Baggage, he may think it necessary, to take with him.

I have the honor to be with great Regard, D^r Sir
Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Commodore Affleck.

P. S. The Stores which were demanded by your Captain when off Antigua, are now all here.

To the Navy Board

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
10th March 1782

Gentlemen

I am sorry to acquaint you that on my Arrival in these Seas I found several of the Fleet under the Command of Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood in very bad condition indeed, and in want of every Species of Stores particularly Sails, Masts, Cordage and Anchors, this with the loss of Topmasts and Yards the Squadron under my Command from Great Britain experienced in the Violent Gales of Wind they encounter'd on their Passage lays me under great difficulties in refitting the Fleet, all of which I hope will be removed, on the arrival of the Convoy from England, which I hourly expect.

I am fully convinced every thing has been done by your Board towards supplying the Demands of the Vast Armament now employed in the West Indies, but there is no answering for the accidents that may happen in

Battle, and from Winds and Weather; which I will affirm causes more Wear and Tear in this Climate than if the Fleet was employed in the Winter time even in the British Channel.

Enclosed I send a Survey I order'd to be taken on the *Intrepid* (A former one having been taken on the said Ship by order of Sir Samuel Hood) by which you will perceive that ship is totally unserviceable in this Climate, I shall therefore Order her and the *Robuste* to England with the May Convoy.

The *Invincible*¹ was so extreamly Leaky and her Leaks so low that it was impossible for her to keep the Sea with the Fleet. I therefore order'd her to Jamaica with the Trade of that Island, recommending it to the Commander in Chief there to refit her with all possible dispatch, that she with the other Ships of his Squadron might be ready to join me on my Appearance to Windward of that Island. The *Invincible* took under her Convoy the *Palliser* Storeship out of which no Stores whatever were taken, in Order that the Jamaica Squadron might be refitted with all the dispatch possible, & that some might remain for the use of the Fleet under my Command: should they be in want of them on their arrival at Jamaica.

Some of the American Squadron sent by Ad^l Digby to join me were in very bad Condition & in want of every Store, particularly the *Royal Oak*, the *America* & the *Prudent*. the former has been hove down in English Harbour, her Leaks stopped, & is now in a good Condition. The Refitting that Ship the *Robuste* and the *Janus*, has caused a very great expence of Stores at Antigua, but notwithstanding these untoward accidents which could not possibly be foreseen, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Fleet in a few days will be in a Condition to attack the Enemy when opportunity of-

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] The refitting the *Invincible* was totally neglected by Sir Peter Parker

fers, or to follow them wherever they may bend their Course.

Tis with real Concern I must acquaint you that the Fleet under my Command are in the greatest want of Anchors, and that almost every Ship is reduced to two Anchors owing to the great number left by the Fleet under the Command of Sir Sam^l Hood at St. Christophers, when they quitted that Island; ¹ I must therefore most earnestly recommend it that a considerable number for 3d Rates may be sent by the first Convoy, many Ships were reduced to One, they have been supplied from those Ships I brought with me from Great Britain.

Enclosed I transmit the Deffects of the different ships as delivered to me & have the honor to be with great regard Gent:

Your most Obed^t and most Hble Serv^t

G. B. R.

Principal Off^{rs} & Commiss^{rs} of His Maj^s Navy

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Barbadoes 10th March 1782

Sir,

I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's two Letters by the Triton dated the 1st March at Sea & the 5th Inst. from Gros Islet Bay.

I applyed to your Excellency in consequence of your generous offer to grant this Island every protection in your power; for a supply of small Arms from 500 to 1000 Stand, or a lesser number as you can best afford.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N B. Sir Sam^l Hood ordered the whole Fleet to cut their Cables at 11 oClock at Night, and left all their Anchors to be taken by the Enemy. Tho he knew there was none in Store, in the West Indies

What makes me more anxious on that head is my apprehensions from a Rumour that prevails, that should Your Excellency be obliged to follow the Enemy's Fleet that they mean when their reinforcement arrives from Europe, to make an attempt on this Island.

I inclose to you a letter I have sent to be communicated to the commanding Officer of the Navy in Carlisle Bay which will point out to your Excellency my Zeal to carry your intentions into execution.

The following extracts from the Secretary of States letter to me of the 6th of February I think proper to communicate to your Excellency viz.

"The Squadron which sailed from Brest the beginning of December met with such tempestuous Weather in the Bay of Biscay, as obliged them to return much shatter'd to Brest, and they have not been able as yet to repair their damages. should they persist in their purpose of strengthening de Grasse's Fleet Sir George Rodney will be further reinforced."

"Your Correspondence with the Marquiss de Bouillie upon the subject of the exchange of Prisoners is very judicious and I see no objection to the Cartel he proposes; I have therefore transmitted it to the Lords of the Admiralty that the proper orders for it's establishment may pass through the proper Channel."

I must remark that this proposition was made to me by the Marquis de Bouillée during your Excellency's absence in England, The Marquis inclosing to me the European Cartel settled which he was impowered by his Court to adopt here. I answered him that as I was not furnished with Instructions to that purpose by the Kings Ministers I should transmit his propositions home for approbation; of which the aforementioned extract is the result.

As I can now accomodate a Battalion at Barbadoes with Barracks I flatter myself that your Excellency knowing our Stated disposition here, will recommend it

to the Commander in Chief of the Land Forces, never to suffer, when it is in his power, this Island to be left without one, an Engineer and an Artillery Officer.

I have now got the proper Flags &c. for communicating with Your Fleet from Fort George, agreeably to what was formerly settled. I shall therefore direct the Signals to be made agreeably to the inclosed plan therefore if any alteration is necessary to be made, let your Secretary acquaint me of it.

I have trespassed too long upon your patience which I flatter myself you will excuse, as I have honor to be with the greatest respect

Yours &c.

JAS. CUNNINGHAME

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. A Danish Vessell arrived in the Port Yesterday to Mr: Shirley she brings no papers, but as he inform'd me that she is sent out by the Contractors for the Use of the Navy, I have directed that she should sail this Evening for St. Lucia under Convoy of the Triton.

Mr. Shirley informs me that many more of that sort are expected daily. And as I have received no notice or Instructions from England possibly Your Excellency may have it in your power to furnish me with Admiralty Instructions on that Subject.

From Governor Cunningham

Barbadoes 10th March 1782

Sir,

His Excellency Sir G. Rodney has represented to me that he is informed there are in Carlisle Bay several Danish Vessels loaded with provisions which can have been shipped with no other design, that that of supplying the Publick Enemy who are in great want.

The Admiral is of opinion that Vessels coming here

under Danish Flags of Truce are sent for no other purpose than to gain Intelligence, and to carry away Provisions if practicable, and that they should therefore be disencouraged as much as possible.

Sir George has no objection to the Embargo being taken off; strict search being made on all Vessels going out by the Officers of the Customs that no Provisions are on board except a necessary Quantity for the Use of the Crew during the Voyage agreeable to Law.

I think it proper to make these his Excellency's Communications to me known to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships of War at this Port whom I doubt not will be aiding and assisting in carrying the Admiral's Intentions and mine, into Execution.

I have the Honor to be &c. &c.

(Signed) JAS. CUNNINGHAME

To the Commanding Officers of His Majesty's Ships
in Carlisle Bay

*From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados,
to Admiral Rodney's Secretary*

Barbado's March 11th 1782

Sir,

I have received your Letters of the 5th Instant, and I am to request that you will be pleased to inform the Admiral that in consequence thereof I have purchased the Endeavor Schooner and have deliver'd her into the Charge of Captain McLawrin Commander of His Majesty's Ship Triton to proceed with him to join the Fleet. I have also agreed with the Agent he having received a letter from Captⁿ Buckner to accept the Sum of Five thousand two hundred & seventy eight Pounds Barbado's currency as settled between the Admiral & Captain Buckner.

The Endeavor Schooner is quite new, has excellent good Beams and is well built, the Mate put into her

by Captain McLaurin has an Inventory of the Articles purchased with her which in that of Sails exceed the number reported to me at first by five but for which no advance to the Price is made.

Captⁿ McLawrin having signified to me that it is the Admiral's pleasure I send down to the Fleet Spars for Topmasts, I have put two of 21 Inches Diameter on board the Endeavor.

The Ship Quebec of the description herewith inclosed with her Original Sale having been offered for Sale I beg leave to mention it, altho' the Price set upon her and materials appears to me to be erroneous. She came here with Lumber & Scantling Stuff which is selling at a great price.

I am Sir &c.

WM. RAGGETT

To The Rev^d Mr. Pagett &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sir

Formidable 12th March 1782

As the whole Fleet will soon be ready, and the Anson, Nonsuch, and St: Amonica, gone to Reconoitre the Enemy's Fleet, and the weather ¹ being such as to render it highly improper to run the Risque of loosing Masts &c. none being in Store, I think necessary for His Majesty's Service to recall your Order of the 7th and must desire you will please to give directions to the Captains of the Divisions not belonging to your own Squadron and who were put under your Command that they return to their Divisions, as mentioned in the Line of Battle.

I have the Honor to be with real Regard Sir

Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Sir Sam^l Hood

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
exceeding bad weather

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Formidable &c. 12th March 1782

Sir

Several of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, being entirely destitute of Paint, and as there is none to be procured at this place.

I am to request you will order a very considerable quantity of that Article to be sent as soon as possible to the Island of St. Lucia, to the charge of Mr. Thomas Turquand who I have appointed to act as Naval Store-keeper.

I have the honor to be with great regard Sir
Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at
the Leeward Islands*

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
12 Mar^h 1782

Sir

I have this Instant received Intelligence that a Squadron of American Privateers are sail'd from St. Pierres Martinique as supposed to attempt the Island of Tortola. I must desire you will immediately dispatch the Nymph (which Frigate I flatter myself is perfectly ready for Service,) and the Convert, with such other Vessels as you shall be able to encrease their Force with, (manning the latter from the Ships in the Harbour) for the protection of that Island and the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects; directing the Nymph after seeing the said

Island in Safety to join me in this Bay, making the Passage to Windward.

I have the honor to be with great Regard, Sir

Yours &c.

G: B. RODNEY

John Laforey Esq^r

P. S You may expect to see me, or a Squadron of Line of Battle Ships with you soon, should it become practicable for it to turn to Windward, which has not been the Case for some time pase.

[Inserted in the Letter-Book beside the above letter:]

On Satturday last 12 Sail of American Privateer Sailed from Martinico on a cruise each mounting from 20 to 26 Guns.

The french fleet consists of 32 Sail of the Line, the greatest part of which are at present unfit for service, they are in the greatest want of all kinds of Naval Stores, & also provisions. Its currently reported at Fort Royall that the fleet will Sail soon, for St. Domingo, & that the Marquis De Boulie, goes along w^t them he having dispos'd of his houshold furniture plate slaves &c. A Mr. Smile brings the above acco^t from Martinico who was captur'd in a Vessel from Newfoundland bound to Barbadoes he was landed in this Island in a Bay to Leeward of Souffrier, by a small vessel bound to St. Vincent yesterday morning.

GEORGE SHAND

Wed^r noon

From Governor Cunningham to Captain John McLaurin

Pilgrim 12 March 1782

$\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 oClock A. M.

Sir,

Being informed you mean to carry away the Prize Brig, l'amable Louise captured by two Packets at Sea,

and by them directed to be brought to this Island, and being advised that she was a Droit of Admiralty, I directed her to be libelled for the use of the King.

I therefore must acquaint you that the Proceeding you mean to adopt appears to be highly irregular, and you must expect after this Notice to abide the Consequences as it [is] my Duty to preserve the Rights of the Crown. I am Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

JAS. CUNNINGHAME

To Captain McLaurin
of H. M. Frigate Triton

Report on the Defences of Pigeon Island, St. Lucia

Particulars relative to the further Defences required for Pidgeon Island, submitted to the Consideration of General Matthew.

The Casemates to be on the North side of the Saddle, between the Batteries, because they will be entirely Secure from any fire on the South Side, and it is our opinion, that the Fire of Ships, cannot have the least Effect on them. If they are made Fifty Feet long, & Sixteen Feet wide, they will Contain Sixty Men very conveniently. the 13 Inch Mortar, to be placed under Rodneys Battery, on the South Side, the 10 Inch Mortar, on the Signal Hill. the Rock that projects on the North point of Rodneys Battery, to be toward 15 Feet, in Order to place 3, or 4 Eighteen Pounders thereon. Small Casemates for Twenty Men, to be made between the North, and South Points, of Rodneys Battery. the Platform under Rodneys Battery to be Enlarged, so as to hold three Guns, to flank the Road, and the Ground to the Right and left of it, with Grape Shot. the lower Battery on the Saddle should be Compleated, so that the Fire of the Four Guns planted there, may be thrown

on either Front. The Upper Battery to be properly supported with Masonry, and Counterforts. All these Batteries, are in *well chosen* situations. Some kind of Cover should be thrown up on the Right, and Left of the 12 Pounder, on the S^h East Side of the Island. the Frame of the Barrack, for Two Officers, and Thirty Men, to be on the North Side of the Saddle, and Sunk so as to be Cover'd from any Fire on the South Side.

The Carriages in general, are in good Condition, but others should be made in readiness to supply those that may decay. A Carriage is wanting for the 32 Pounder, on the upper Battery on the Saddle. Grape Shot and Langrage, Intrenching, and all sorts of Artificers Tools are wanting. But the laying out of Ten Thousand Pounds on the Defences of the Island, is not of half the Consequence as the occupying the Hills, that Command Longuevilles Bay, by so doing, with the Assistance of the two 32 Pounders on the other Shore, you prevent their Landing in that Bay, and oblige them to do so, further to Windward, And if we do not take hold of these Hills, & that an Enemy should have possession of them, by planting his Guns, and Mortars, so that they may just fire over the Crest of the Hill, he may at his pleasure, and without risque of being annoyed by our Fire, destroy every building on Pidgeons Island, and Ships in the Bay. A Very Simple Work with the Ground brought to a level, and a few Guns placed there, and properly Manned, would effectually remedy this Inconvenience.

The tops of these Hills are within a Mile of Pidgeon Island, are not Commanded, at any distance that can be of the least Consequences.

F. DOWNMAN

Capt: Commanding Artillery

CHAS: SHIPLEY

First Lieut: & Commanding Officer

Morne fortuné Mar^h 12th 1782

To His Excellency General Mathew

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Formidable &c. 13th March 1782

Sir,

I am honor'd with Your Excellency's Letter of the 10th Inst. by the Triton, requesting a supply of small Arms for the defence of your Island which as soon as I am inform'd what number can be spared shall be sent to Barbadoes by the first Opportunity.

I shall always concur with your Excellency when you may think proper to lay an Embargo at your Island and shall give the necessary orders to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships at Barbadoes to give you every assistance in his power.

As several Vessels loaded with provisions and Wine for the use of His Majesty's Navy, are daily expected to arrive at Barbadoes, I must beg your Excellency will please to dispatch them as soon as possible for this Island as their Cargoes are much wanted by His Majesty's Fleet under my Command.

The Count de Grasse who is much more liberal than the Marquis De Bouille has established Cartels much to the advantage of both Nations King's Vessels are (by his Plan) to be sent as such which will prevent a number of Inconveniences to which Flags of Truce were formerly subject.

I must intreat You not to allow of any private Flags of Truce in future as their Intention can only be to convey Intelligence to the Enemy.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gov^r Cuninghame

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Tickler English Harbour
March 13th 1782

Sir,

I had the Honor of writing to you last on the 4th Inst. by His Majesty's Ship Sybil.

I now by His Majesty's Ship Nymph which luckily is just ready to dispatch some Intelligence which arrived Yesterday by a Ship that put into Falmouth Bay near this Port I do not find that the destination of the French Fleet met with by the Arethusa is more than conjecture, at least none were taken by the Frigate.

In my Letter by the Sybil of the 2d Instant I mentioned that We had no Powder at this Port for the occasional supply of Ships calling here nor is there any to be purchased. I have since heard that all the Powder deposited at Barbadoes had been taken on board your Fleet so that we must solicit You Sir for what can be spared from it.

The Espion Cutter arrived here on the 6th Instant having sprung her Main Mast and Bowsprit the former we shall be able to patch up for a time not having a Stick to make another for her the Diameter of it being equal to the Main Mast of a Fifty Gun Ship, her Bowsprit being quite gone I am obliged to have one made at St. John's where the Storeship with Masts and Spars lays and will send her to take it in as soon as she is in other Respects ready she shall immediately then proceed to join you and carry the Berbice Schooner with her, we shall then have sent you every thing that is or can be got ready.

I do not think it right to detain any thing at this time to cruise about the Island knowing how few small Vessels you can have with you at present and judging that you will better approve of sending such as can be

best spared than to have those stopped which may be wanted for other purposes.

Having had an offer of the Masts Yards &c. belonging to the Raynham Hall Ordnance Storeship which bore up for this Island on her Passage from New York to England and has been condemned as unfit to prosecute her Voyage I caused them to be examined and upon their proving serviceable have order'd them to be purchased to Mast the Robust, they are of the Dimensions of those for a Forty Gun Ship and will be much cheaper and larger than anything I could supply her with in our present circumstances besides the saving so much labour in the Yard which can be applied to purposes more essential to the Service of Your Fleet, but having no means of getting them round from St. John's to this Port, I request Sir you will be so good to let me have the Whitby Storeship whose Cargo may easily be disposed of to the Fleet or otherwise a Frigate for the purpose, tho' the Storeship will answer the end much best.

And now I am upon the Subject of the Raynham Hall I beg leave to inclose a Copy of the Report of a Survey made upon her Hull by direction of the Agent for the Prisoners and to ask if it is your pleasure she should be purchased for a Prison Ship which is much wanted here. I do not think she can be sold at so low a Rate as the Surveyor supposes at this Period, but at a much greater Price she will be a considerable saving to Government and a much more effectual Security for the Prisoners.

The Blast Fireship which came in here for some Repairs will be ready in a few days. What would you please to have done with her.

We shall now take in Hand the Robust and Janus both must be hove down, the latter Sir Samuel Hood desired might be coppered for Service in this Country, with all our exertion the fitting of the Robust will occupy as much time as will bring round the usual Period for the Sailing of the first Convoy. I am Sir &c.

JN^O LAFOREY

P. S. Since I wrote the above I have account that one of the Convoy arrived at St. John's spoke with the Berwick & Valiant upon her Passage.

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur Gros Islet March 13th 1782

Sir,

I have the honor to return agreeably to your Commands, the order I received for a Court Martial, together with Captain Gideon's report upon the Delinquents.

And as the small Schooner Boat which was very useful while I lay at St. Kitt's is unfit to fetch Water, or to keep Company at Sea, and is I think hired at a great Expence I propose sending her back to Antigua with the Germain, to be discharged if it meets your approbation. I have the honor to be &c. &c. &c.

SAM: HOOD

P S. I have this moment rec^d your order of this date, and shall put to Sea tomorrow.

S. H.

To Admiral Sir George Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Bedford Gros Islet March 13th 1782

Sir,

As I cannot have the Honor of waiting upon you from not being able to set my foot to the Ground and being in much pain I beg leave to represent to you that from the Bedford's defects repeatedly given in, her Bends, Decks, Topsides and Quick Work want caulking so much,

that if not done the first opportunity she will be ruin'd for want of it, and am therefore to request if I am not going to Sea immediately you will be pleas'd to order some of the Caulkers of the Fleet upon her I hope this will meet your approbation and that you will believe me to be

Yours &c.

EDM: AFFLECK

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable &c. 13th March 1782

Sir,

I am honor'd with your Letter of this day's date, representing that His M: Ship Bedford wants caulking so much that it is absolutely necessary to be done the first Opportunity.

In answer I am to inform you that the Bedford is wanted on immediate Service but the moment there is an Opportunity to do it, she shall be properly caulk'd.

I am extremely sorry for your Indisposition and have the honor to be with great regard Sir

Yours &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Commodore Affleck &c. &c. &c.

To Sir Samuel Hood, Rear Admiral of the Blue

Formidable &c. 13th March 1782

Sir,

I am favor'd with your Letter of this day's [date] with my order for your assembling a Court Martial and Captain Gedoin's [sic] Report upon the Delinquents.

I can have no objection to your discharging the

Schooner but beg leave to acquaint you the Germaine will sail directly.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 14th March 1782

Sir,

On my Arrival at Barbadoes on the 19th of last Month Captain Pender late of His Majesty's Sloop Berbuda came on board and acquainted me that a French Squadron, consisting of three Frigates, a Cutter and four Brigs with Troops on board from France, appear'd off the River Demerary the 30th of January last, and that the Colony, the Fort, and Six of His Majesty's Frigates had submitted to the Enemy, without making Resistance, their Lordships may easily imagine my surprize and astonishment at this Event as I had taken care, before I was obliged to leave these Seas (on account of my Health) to order eight Sail of Frigates at least for the protection of those Colonies a List of which I have the honor to inclose. I shall forbear giving my Sentiments on this great national affair as I shall order it to be strictly enquired into at a Court Martial and shall send a Flag of Truce to Martinique, that those Officers concern'd in the Capitulation may be exchanged in order to take their Trial so many Frigates being given up to the Enemy is of great detriment to His Majesty's Service, as they are much wanted here and as His Majesty's Ship Prothée took two large American Privateers to Windward off Barbadoes one called the Scourge of Twenty four Guns 120 Men, the other the Rhode of 22 Guns and a Hundred Men, I thought it necessary for His Majesty's Service and in obedience to their Lordships most strict orders of the 6th of Dec^r last relative

to my providing a sufficient number of swift Sailing Vessels to watch the motions of the Enemy to give directions to the Naval Storekeeper at Barbadoes to purchase the said two Privateers to fit them as Sloops of War, to name one the Stormont, the other the Barbadoes, which has been done accordingly, and I hope will meet with their Lordship's approbation.

What adds to my great concern, on this unhappy occasion is, from the report made to me by Captⁿ Thompson of the Hyanæ and several other Officers, I concluded thereby the Fort at the Mouth of that River which mounted twelve heavy Cannon besides small ones, was placed in such a situation, as to Rake any Ship coming into the River & assisted by the Frigates I had stationed there might have bid defiance to any attempt made upon the Colony.

I cannot conclude this disagreeable account, without acquainting their Lordships that Captⁿ Tahourdin who seems to have taken the lead in this Capitulation was one of the Youngest Masters and Commanders I had order'd on that Station. Captⁿ Thompson of the Hyanæ thought proper to appoint him Post in the Oronoko his reasons for so doing without any authority I must leave for their Lordship's Enquiry.

Should the French Admiral not agree to the Exchange of these Captains and Officers I shall take care that the Inferior Officers belonging to the Captur'd Frigates who are already exchanged shall be sent to England that the Enquiry into this unhappy Affair may not be delayed.

Inclos'd I send Captⁿ Tahourdin's Account and the Capitulation as deliver'd by him to me.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

A List of Frigates Sir George Rodney order'd to be Stationed for the Protection of the Colonies Demerara Esiquibo & Besbui [*sic for Berbice*]

Hyanæ	24 Guns	Capt ⁿ Thompson
Surprize	18 Guns	Capt ⁿ Day
Star	14	
Berbuda	18	Capt ⁿ Pender
Selph	18	Capt ⁿ Graham
Drake	14	
Oronoque	18	
Stormont	14	
Rodney	14	
Henry	6	

Those Frigates in want of Provisions to receive them at Barbadoes, if in want of repair to go to Antigua.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable 15th March 1782

Sir,

Finding on my arrival at St. Lucia, that it was absolutely necessary, a proper person shou'd be appointed at this Island, in Order to take Charge of, and prevent any embezzlement, being made of His Majesty's Stores.

I beg you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that as Mr Laforey gave me to understand, he had no Orders to appoint any person, to take Charge of His Majesty's Stores, at St. Lucia, that I have appointed Mr. Thos. Turquand, to act as Naval Store-keeper and Muster Master, at this Island, (being a proper Person for that purpose) until their Lordships pleasure be known. As this Island of St Lucia, must of necessity be the place of re-fitting, the great Naval Force now in these Seas, it was absolutely necessary, that a proper person shou'd be appointed, to take charge of the Naval Stores, and prevent their embezzlements.

I have the Honor to be with Great Regard

Yours &c. &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 15th March 1782

Sir,

Notwithstanding the extreme bad Weather & contrary Winds, the Squadron under my Command encountered for more than a Fortnight after they left the British Channel we made our Passage to Barbadoes in Five Weeks and arrived at that Island late in the Evening on the 19th of February.

The moment we anchored Governor Cuninghame and General Christie came on board the Formidable, by them I was informed that the French Fleet under Count de Grasse and their Army under the Marquiss de Bouillé had invested and were besieging His Majesty's Island of St. Christopher's, that Sir Samuel Hood with Twenty two Sail of the Line under his Command was anchored a little to Windward of the Road of Basseterre, that he had had two re-encounters with Count de Grasse, while at an Anchor in the said Road both, to the disadvantage of the Enemy who could make no impression on the British Fleet, but were obliged to return to their Station off Nevis, that tho' the Inhabitants of Basseterre had surrendered that Town with it's 3 Strong Batteries to the Marquiss de Bouillé without firing One Single Gun, yet the Citadel on Brimstone Hill held out, had made a gallant defence and in all probability was in no danger of being taken for a considerable time.

This last Intelligence their Lordships may be assured gave me the highest satisfaction, as I was in hopes that I should arrive in time to save so important an Island to His Majesty and have an opportunity of attacking His Enemy's Fleet. Animated with these ideas the whole Night (which was Calm) was spent in receiving on board the Fleet One hundred Tons of Water which on the Prothée (who had parted Company from me in a Gale of Wind off Cape Finisterre and had arrived at Barbadoes the day before) having acquainted the honest Mas-

ters of the English Merchant Ships then in the Road that they might hourly expect my arrival; they, as true Lovers of their King and Country had filled; in order to put on board His Majesty's Ships the moment they arrived.

I thought it a Duty incumbent upon me and a justice to them to make this report of their Loyalty, which was of the utmost consequence to His Majesty's and the Public Service, there being no probability of getting Water at St. Christopher's, the Enemy being in possession of the Watering Places.

When the Breeze set in on the Morning of the 20th I proceeded with the Squadron under my Command, but the Wind proving N^orly it was the 23d before We arrived off English Harbour Antigua. The Alert which Sloop I had dispatch'd before for Intelligence, brought me word that Brimstone Hill and the whole Island of St. Christopher's had surrendered on the 12th Instant to the Enemy, that Sir Sam^l Hood and the Fleet under his Command had left St. John's Road Antigua 48 Hours before my Arrival¹ off that Island and had sailed to the N^oward in their way to Barbadoes that he ordered Frigates to watch the motions of the Enemy's Fleet on seeing One to Leeward with a press of Sail, and concluding it to be a British Cruizer with Intelligence, I lay too, till she joined me; having dispatch'd the Anson to Windward with Letters for Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood, who I hoped he would fall in with on his crossing the Latitudes to Windward of the Islands. Which Letters were to desire the said Rear Admiral to make the junction of the Fleets off Point Salines Martinique.

The Frigate proved to be His Majesty's Ship the Con-

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] had Sir S^l Hood stationed Frigates to windward of Barbadoes, which it was his Duty to have done, I should have joyned him before he sailed from Antigua and brought the French Fleet to Battle, before they could have reached Martinico

vert with 230 English Prisoners which Count de Grasse had agreed should be exchanged by Frigates of War, wearing a Flag of Truce. Captain Harvey her Commander acquainted me that the French Fleet had left St. Christophers and shaped their Course towards Martinique having on their way obliged the Island of Montserrat to Surrender.

Being convinced the Enemy had given up their intentions of attacking Antigua on their having received Intelligence from a Vessel belonging to *Speights Town*¹ Barbadoes of the Arrival of the Prothée and my being hourly expected, I am convinced hastened their departure from St. Christopher's that they might arrive at Port Royal before the junction of the British Fleets.

While laying too I issued the strictest Orders to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships in English Harbour to be aiding and assisting to his Majesty's Governor in the Defence of Antigua to the utmost extremity, should it at any time be attacked, and upon no account at his peril to suffer his Majesty's Ships that might be in English Harbour to fall into their hands; but if in Real danger of that event, to destroy the Ships, Land the Officers and Men and assist in the defence of the Island till it was relieved by His Majesty's Fleet in these Seas.

And likewise having given directions to the Captain of the Royal Oak which Ship had never been able to join Sir Sam^l Hood and to the Yarmouth who I had sent into English Harbour being in want of a Main Yard to take on board every Store they could possibly Stow for the Use of the Fleet and hasten to join me in Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] N. B. from this Town, the Enemy were allways supply'd with Intelligence, from the *Loyal Inhabitants* at Bridge Town, most of whom were inclined to the American interest, and kept up a constant correspondence with the Enemy at Martinique

I made Sail; and on the 25th joined Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood to Windward of Antigua. The Conjunct Fleets made all the Sail possible towards Martinique. I was in hopes that as the Enemy's Fleet took their Course to Leeward of the Islands they might have met with Calms to delay their Passage so as to have enabled His Majesty's Fleet under my Command to have been off Port Royal Bay before them & an opportunity given me of bringing them to Action.

The Enemy had the good fortune to secure their Anchorage in Fort Royal Bay before my Arrival.

I have caused them to be daily reconnoitred and inclosed have the honor to send their Lordships a List of their numbers and condition as taken by Captain Vashon in His Majesty's Sloop Alert which I had sent as a Flag of Truce to Count de Grasse with French Prisoners in lieu of such as he had sent to His Majesty's Fleet. As most of the Fleet lately under the Command of Sir Sam^l Hood were in the greatest want of repair, Water, Stores & Provisions, particularly Bread, (they having been a considerable time without any) as likewise of *Anchors, the whole Fleet on their departure from St. Christophers having been obliged to leave them behind.*¹ I caused the utmost dispatch to be made in dividing the Anchors, Stores and Provisions brought in the Squadron under my Command from Great Britain, among the Fleet in General; hastened their Refitting & Watering; but such has been the severity of the Weather unusual at this Season in this Climate with so violent a Surf on the Shore that many of Long Boats of the Fleet have been destroyed in Watering. however I have the pleasure now to acquaint their Lordships that in a very few days

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] a very unofficer like action, and tending to discourage the Fleet in General, by a British Fleet of 22 Sail of the Line, cutting their Cables putting out their lights, and running away from an Enemy's Fleet of only 27 Sail of the Line.

the whole will be compleat and ready for Service, except the Intrepid which has been found unserviceable and must be sent to Great Britain with the May Convoy.

I have directed Sir Samuel Hood with his Division to take his Station to Windward of Point Salines and shall follow him with mine when we shall Cruize more to Windward in order to intercept any Squadrons or Convoys of the Enemy who may be bound to Martinique.

I shall give directions to Rear Admiral Drake with his Division to Cruize between Point Salines & St. Lucia to keep a watchful Eye on the Enemy at Fort Royal, constantly acquainting me with their motions that (if there be occasion) the whole Fleet may join either to attack or follow them.

I have Stationed the *Fortunée*, *Pegasus* & *Sybil* to Windward of Barbadoes for the better protection of the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects bound to the West Indies and by stretching as far to the Northward as the Latitude of Dominique to give me timely notice of the Approach of an Enemy. Frigates will likewise be stationed between them and his Majesty's Fleet.

Having received Intelligence that a Squadron of American Privateers were Sailed from St. Pierre's with an intention to attack or plunder the Island of Tortola, I have dispatched His Majesty's Frigates *Santa Monica*, *Nymphé*, *Convert* and *Germaine* to endeavor to destroy the said Privateers and defend Tortola, and have given directions to the Commanding Officer of the said Squadron after performing this Service to leave the *Convert* for the better protection of that Island.

I likewise propose (having consulted with General Mathews) to send a small Squadron to attempt the Recapture of the Island of Montserrat,¹ as it will not only be the means of supplying His Majesty's Ships stationed at Antigua with Water but a great Check to the Enemy at Nevis and St. Christopher's.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] this was prevented by the arrival of the French Convoy

On my arrival off English Harbour and being informed that Sir Samuel Hood was Sailed with the Fleet to the N^oward and that no real intelligence was known of the motions of the Enemy, I had given directions to the Captains of the Arrogant, Anson and Nonsuch (who not being able to Anchor in Carlisle Bay did not partake of the Water supplied by the Merchant Ships) to repair to Montserrat for Intelligence and Water to assist the Inhabitants with Ammunition and whatever they might stand in need of for their defence.

Commissioner Laforey prevailed upon me not to send the said Ships as he was convinced the Island had surrendered, this was confirmed by Captain Harvey of the Convert and it being of the utmost importance that His Majesty's Fleets should join with all possible dispatch, I could not think of delay at so important a moment.

But as the Enemy's Fleet are now in Fort Royal Bay and His Majesty's considerably superior to them, their Lordships may depend upon my taking every opportunity of attacking the Enemy where Vulnerable. Would to God that General Mathew had but a sufficient number of Troops to spare from the defence of St. Lucia (which Island is of more consequence than all the British Caribbee Islands) I would answer for it that St. Christophers and Nevis should not be long under the Dominion of France, but the French Garrisons in those Islands are more numerous than all the British Forces at present under General Mathew.

His Majesty's Ship the Invincible being so extremely leaky as to render her incapable of Cruizing or serving with the Fleet till her Leaks were stop'd I thought it necessary to send her on the 7th Instant to Jamaica with my Letters to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on that Station and to the Governor of the Island, Copies of which Letters I have the honor to inclose for their Lordship's perusal.

The Invincible with the Martin Sloop (which had arrived the day before from Great Britain with their Lordships Dispatches to me) took under their protection the

Palliser Storeship and the Trade bound to Jamaica. I caused a good look out to be kept on the Enemy's Fleet when they sailed which was late in the Evening and after a very few *Hours previous Notice*.¹

I have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships that His Majesty's Ships the Warrior, Valiant & Duke have joined me from Great Britain as likewise one of the Danish Victuallers with Provisions by whom I learn that the Convoy for the West Indies was to Sail the day after he left Spithead.

Enclosed I send the State & Condition of His Majesty's Ships & Vessells under my Command. I am &c.
To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sir, Formidable &c. 16th March 1782.

As the Monarch is ready to proceed with you I think it necessary to acquaint you that the Arrogant is order'd under your Command in Lieu of the Alfred. I should be glad you would proceed to the Station, as I think it necessary for His Majesty's Service that your Division should be to Windward of Point Salines 'till I join you. I am Sir &c.

To Sir Sam^l Hood &c. &c. &c. G: B: RODNEY

To the Commissioners of the Victualing

Gentlemen, Formidable &c. 16th March 1782

I think it necessary for His Majesty's Service to inform you, that on my Junction with Sir Sam^l Hood I

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N. B. to prevent the Enemy getting Intelligence of my design

found most of the Ships under his Command bare of Provisions particularly the Article of Bread, many of them having for some time been supply'd with Yam's and Flour in Lieu thereof.

I have further to inform you that from the uncommon blowing Weather at this Season of the Year, such a Surf has been occasion'd on the Beach that most of the long Boats and Launchs employed in Watering have been destroyed thereby and that essential Service greatly retarded nor would it have been compleated but for some strong built Sloops and Vessels which I have been able to procure for that purpose. Some of which I have thought absolutely necessary to order to be purchased to prevent the like Inconveniency for the future, for the payment of which I shall order Bills to be drawn on your board.

I shall be very happy when your Agent arrives, to take off the great Trouble and Fatigue of this Department having my hands fully employed in my military Capacity. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy

To Captain James Saumarez

Formidable &c 17th March 1782

Sir,

I desire you will immediately give me your Reasons in Writing, why you did not comply with my orders signified to you by Sir Chas. Douglas my first Captain to restore the Men impressed by you out of the Tom Merchant Man.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Saumarez
Russel

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable &c. 17th March 1782.

Sir,

Notwithstanding my order of this day's date for your Proceeding on an important Expedition I must desire you will postpone putting the same into Execution, 'till you receive further Orders from me; As I propose putting to Sea with the whole Fleet tomorrow Morning at day light.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Commodore Affleck &c.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable &c. 17th March 1782

Sir,

Notwithstanding the Orders you have received I must desire you will postpone holding any Court Martial for the present as I intend putting to Sea early tomorrow Morning with the whole Fleet and you will be pleased to give Orders to your Division for the Leewardmost Ships to get under Way first and stand to Windward when I make the Signal to Weigh.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Drake &c. &c. &c.

*From Commander Edward Herbert to Captain
John Linzee*

Experiment off English Harbour Antigua
17th March 1782

Sir,

I have received your order of this day's date to put myself under your Command and proceed in Company with His Majesty's Ship Santa Monica.

I beg leave to inform you that on Wednesday the 6th

Instant at 9 A. M. (having come to an Anchor off Spanish Town of Virgin Gorda from a Cruize the Night before with the Foretopmast Sprung) saw a Ship and Brig to the Southward pass through the Passage called dead Chest Passage, and continued turning up between the Islands with a press of Sail, at Ten made the private Signal which they not answering was convinced were a part of an American Squadron and which (by Information) were in quest of me, the Ship appeared like a small Frigate and the Brig a Vessel of War, not being near enough the Shore to Co-operate with a two Gun Battery there thought it Expedient for the preservation of His Majesty's Ship to Slip and put to Sea, at half past 11 Slip'd our Cable and made Sail to the Northward through the Islands, which the Enemy unexpectedly Weathered and gave me Chase at 3 P. M. (Virgin Gorda E $\frac{1}{2}$ S 6 or 7 Leagues) the Enemy having come within random Shot who hoisted English Colours and seeing an Action unavoidable through their superiority in Sailing prepared to shorten Sail and give them Battle the Wind blowing fresh at E. N. E: the Sea high and the Enemy on the Lee Quarter at $\frac{3}{4}$ past three shorten'd Sail and bore away in order to the better fighting my Guns at the same time both Vessels plac'd themselves the Brig on the Starboard Bow and the Ship on the Larboard Quarter, I spoke the Ship who after a few of the usual Questions shifted her Colours to those of American and directed ours to be struck. I gave my Broad Side to the Ship and the Action commenced at the distance of about Twenty Yards. We continued our position for half an Hour the Brigg keeping up a constant and heavy fire of Musquetry Grape and Langridge. At half past four the Ship having Slack'd her fire and the Brig endeavouring to get on my Starboard Bow, I haul'd up and in so doing ran on board on her Quarter, by which she received much damage; by this time our Bowlines and Braces being cut away the Topsails took a Back and we drop't astern of both. At a Quarter before five the Brig put before the Wind and our Topsails taking full we again stood for the Ship

who immediately wore gave a few Guns in return to ours and made Sail after the Brig, which lost her Fore-topmast and Boom soon after. Not being able to command the Ship in consequence of the damage done to the Masts Yards standing and Running Rigging &c. which were in general Shot away and a Gun dismounted, I got the Courses set as soon as geer could be got ready and stood to the Northward. At Six lost sight of the Enemy, since that time have been employ'd mending Sails, getting up Rigging to support the Masts and Yards and turning up to Antigua. I must likewise observe that we make much Water and have received a number of Shot in our Hull Booms and Boats. Notwithstanding which am happy to inform you I had only one Man kill'd Mr. Walker the Lieut^t Mr. King the Boatswain and thirteen others Wounded most of which being with Musquet Shot and Splinters are in a fair way of recovery.

I am with great respect Sir &c.

EDW^D HERBERT

P. S. I am since informed the Ship was the Junius Brutus of 18 Nine on the Main Deck & 6 Sixes on the Quarter Deck and Forecastle, and the Brig Hulker of 18 Sixes.

To John Linzee Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Comte de Grasse

Sir, Formidable &c. 18th March 1782

I am honor'd with both your Excellency's dispatches, and am truly sensible both of your Excellency's politeness and humanity and shall always be happy whenever I can have an Opportunity of shewing my personal Respect and Esteem for you.

I beg you will accept my thanks for restoring the Boat & Crew belonging to Lord Robert Manners, as likewise of the Men belonging to the King my Master's

Brigantine called the Alert, when under the protection of the French Flag.

Your Excellency desiring their pardon, is fully sufficient for them to obtain it, as I shall be happy at all times to shew my respect to your Commands.

Your Excellency's Letter that you have Honor'd me with by Mouns^r Lambert gives me real concern as I myself on my arrival at Barbadoes where I made but a very [few] hours stay had informed the Officer of the Cartel that he should go to Martinique and had requested Gen^l Cuninghame Governor of that Island that he would permit him to depart in 48 Hours after my leaving that Island.

Some altercations must pass between us relative to his not complying with my request, as the Prisoners of War are not under the Cognizance of Gov^r Cuninghame.

Your Excellency may depend that nothing of this sort shall happen in future while I have the Honor to command the King my Master's Fleet in these Seas. And I will call to strict account the Captain of the Frigate who presumed to follow Gov^r Cuninghame's Orders so directly contrary to my intentions.

It will make me happy if at any time this Island Produces any thing worth your acceptance¹ or that may be the least useful to your Table as the Merchant Ships which have lately arrived from Europe may have brought different Species of necessaries that may be agreeable to your Excellency it will make me happy Sir, to obey your Commands.

I beg you will be assured that I have the honor to be with the highest Respect and Esteem Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. Your Excellency may depend upon your Letters being sent agreeable to your desire.

To His Excellency Count de Grasse.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
N B. the French Admiral had sent me two Chest of Liqueurs

From Captain Robert Barbor

Fame [March 18, 1782?]

Sir

Mr. Mathew Moriaty Captain of Marines on board His Majesty's Ship under my Command, having applied to me by Letter of 18 March requesting my Application for a Court Martial on Philip Neal Private Marine for Col-
luding, Striking, and being Insolent to Mr: Thomas Wheeler 2d Lieutenant of Marines, his Officer when in the Execution of his Duty in attempting to settle a dispute between said Neal and a Corporal of Marines he had likewise been beating: on the evening of the 17th of March.

I am in Consequence thereof, to desire you will please to Apply to the Commander in Chief to give orders for Assembling a Court Martial for the Trial of Philip Neal Private Marine accordingly. I am Sir &c.

R: BARBOR

To Sir G. B. Rodney

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Pilgrim 18 March 1782

My Dear Sir

The Bearer of this Letter to your Excellency Mess^{rs} Nesbits, sent with Letters to me from the President of the Council & Speaker of the Assembly of Nevis, stating in the strongest terms their distress for Provisions, and also requesting that the Ships expected from England by the Convoy may be permitted to Sail immediately on their arrival here for that Island, I therefore in consequence of the directions you gave me, have thought proper to send them with their Flag to Your Excellency at St. Lucia, to receive Your Commands on that subject.

I take this opportunity of conveying to Your Excellency some other Letters, having had no opportunity of sending them, Not having heard from St. Lucia since the 8th Instant.

I have the honer to be My Dear Sir Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca. &ca. &ca.

From Captain Benjamin Caldwell

Sir, Agamennon Carlisle Bay 18th March 1782

I have the honor to inform you with the arrival here this Evening of His Majesty's Ship Agamennon under my Command with the Magnificent. Last night we spoke the Le Fortunée Captain Christian informed me it was your desire we should complete our Water with all possible dispatch, and join the Fleet at Gros Islet Bay, and to morrow or next day hope we shall be ready to Sail with such Ships as are bound to St. Lucia.

I am Sir &c.

BENJ^N CALDWELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*To Major General Thomas Shirley, Governor of the
Leeward Islands*

Formidable at Sea to Windward of Martinique
19th March 1782.

Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving both Your Excellencys Letters, and had answer'd your first a considerable time since, but the extream bad Weather that we experienced during the Fleet's continuance at St. Lucia, prevented the Frigates going to Antigua with my Dispatches.

I communicated the contents of your Excellency's Letters to General Mathew, the General is as eager as myself to undertake any Enterprize that may conduce to the Benefit of His Majesty and his State. He is now on board the Formidable with me to Windward of Martinique. We had Plan[n]'d an Expedition which was to have been immediately put into Execution had I not received Intelligence that the Enemy hourly expected a very large Reinforcement of Men of War and Troops from Europe which it is my Business to endeavor to Intercept, however in all probability General Mathew will be soon at Antigua. I must leave it to your Excellency's consideration whether the expectation of General Mathew at your Island should not be kept as secret as possible the Idea of the Commander in Chief of the King's Troops being at Antigua, may give the alarm to the Enemy, and should not be known even to the Inhabitants of your Island, several of whom have been too apt to give Intelligence to the Enemy supplying them with Provisions under the pretence of going to Mountserrat and unless Your Excellency is upon your Guard they will do the same, Flags of Truce that they may Induce you to Grant; but I must intreat you to be extremely cautious in granting of Private Flags of Truce, which only serve to give the Enemy Intelligence supply them with Provisions and are extremely detrimental to the State.

My Cruizers have possitive Orders to seize all such and to suffer none to pass, but those that are charged with Your Excellency's Dispatches, to the French Governors or Generals.

You may depend upon every assistance in my power towards the Preservation of the Island of Antigua and hope you have approved of the Orders I have given to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ships station'd at Antigua, and that you'll believe me to be with great Regard Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Shirley.

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to William Raggett,
Naval Storekeeper at Barbados*

Formidable &c. 19th March 1782

Sir,

Herewith inclosed I transmit the Certificates of the Pilot who brought the Sloop Gov^r Cuningham from Essiquibo approved by the Admiral, and am by his order to signify to you his approbation of your Purchasing the Endeavor Schooner (which arrived at St. Lucia with the two Spars on board under Convoy of the Triton) as also the two American Privateers captur'd by the Prothee, which he has been pleased to commission as Sloops of War agreeable to the Order herewith sent you on that head.

The Price set on the Ship call'd the Quebec appears to him so extravagant that he declines all Consideration about her. I am &c.

WM PAGETT

To Mr. Wm. Raggett
Naval Storekeeper, Barbado's

To William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Formidable &c. 19th March 1782

Sir,

I am to desire you will cause the inclosed to be laid before the Attorney Gen^l at Barbadoes for his opinion Whether I can legally comply with the Prayer of the Petition, which you will please to return with his answer to, S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Mr. Raggett

For the opinion of the Attorney Gen^l at Barbadoes by desire of Sir G. B. Rodney and Gen^l Mathew, Whether Neutral Vessels may be admitted from the Conquer'd

Islands with the produce of those Islands into St. Lucia and permitted to load the said Produce in British Vessels for Great Britain.

Whether these Neutral Vessels may be allowed to export in return from St. Lucia Utensils and Stores, Provisions excepted for the use of the Conquer'd Islands.

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable &c. 19th March 1782

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 15th Instant Inclosing me a Copy of a Council of War held at New York the 11th Dece^r

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Com^r Affleck &c. &c. &c.

To Captain George Day

Formidable &c. 19th March 1782

Sir,

I have rec^d your Letter of the 9th of this Month inclosing Lists of the disposal of Men which came from Demarara and must desire that the remainder of them may be equally divided between the two new Commission'd Sloops Stormont and Barbadoes which Sloops I desire may have the Preference in being got ready for Sea to every thing else whatsoever and You are to hasten them with all the dispatch possible and for which purpose I have sent Orders to the Storekeeper to furnish them with whatever Stores they may want and he has in Store on their being properly demanded.

You will be particularly careful that the enclosed Orders be conveyed as soon as possible.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Day
Surprize

To the Captains of Seven British Ships

Formidable &c. 20th March 1782

Sir,

As it is of the utmost consequence to His Majesty's Service that every Ship should pay the utmost Attention towards keeping the Station allotted her, And Whereas I have given directions that the Officer of the Watch in each Ship should sign the Log Book at the end of his Watch and the distance then from the Admiral of his Division in order that might know who is to blame in case the Ship under your Command should by the neglect of Officers be out of her Station,

And whereas in the night of the 19th by Log tho' the Formidable made but a very moderate Sail, carrying neither Top gallant Sails nor Staysails during the whole night yet such was the neglect of the Officer of the Watch of several Ships under my Command that instead of keeping in their Station and being ready at day light to form the line of Battle should there have been occasion they were at so considerable a distance as might have been highly detrimental to His Majesty's Service had the Enemy then appeared in Sight,

I must therefore desire you will make the strictest enquiry into the Conduct of the Officers of the Watch in your Ship during that night and acquaint me with the reasons and the occasion of His Majesty's Ship under your Command being out of her Station in the Morning, And that you will give the strictest injunctions to your Officers that they pay the utmost attention to the Orders

relative to their signing the Log Book and keeping the Ship under your Command in her proper Station agreeable to the Orders they will receive from you.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The respective Captains Of His Majesty's Ships in the Margin

[List written in the margin:] Marlborough, Russell, Fame, Prince George, Torbay, Duke, Hercules.

To the Commanding Officer of the Convoy From England

Formidable &c. 20th March 1782

Sir,

Notwithstanding any former Orders I must desire you will order the Endymion & Alarm Frigates to compleat their Water and join me with all the Expedition possible agreeable to the enclosed Rendezvous, directing the Princess Carolina together with the whole Convoy and what other of H: Majesty's Ships & Vessels may have come out with it, to remain in at Carlisle Bay Barb'dos till further orders.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Commanding Officer
of the Convoy from England at Barbadoes

To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Formidable &c. 20th March 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will be pleased to give Notice to the Planters and Merchants at Barbadoes, that a Convoy

will sail for England, very early in May provided the Trade shall be then ready, but if that Period shall be deem'd too early it shall wait a few days for the accomodation thereof. I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Cuningham

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Spanishtown 20th March 1782

Dear Sir,

I am honor'd with your favor of the 6th Instant and congratulate you most sincerely on your arrival to Windward I congratulate my Country also and this Island in particular upon the Command of so powerful a Fleet being entrusted to an Officer of your distinguished Zeal and Abilities and whose heart is so thoroughly attached to the Interests and prosperity of Jamaica. I can with truth assure you that the Inhabitants of this Island retain a grateful remembrance of your former Attention to them, and place most entire confidence in your affording us every possible relief at this alarming Juncture.

It is beyond all manner of doubt that the Combin'd Forces of France & Spain are mustering strong at Cape Francois and mean us a Visit soon, and it is certain also that I have nothing so much at heart as to give them a very warm reception. They are pleased to Insult us with a Confidence of success and their numbers are great & alarming, but I trust with the strength of this Island and the Gallant force under your Orders we shall rise superior to all their threats and add Confusion & disgrace to their Insolence.

I have reason to believe that their design is to amuse you with their Fleet to Windward, whilst their Squadrons

and forces now Rendezvousing at Cape Francois strike at this Island, but I am persuaded you will find recourses ready for every possible difficulty and however deep their Plans of Attack they will find themselves severely discomfited by you.

Inclosed I send you the latest Information from Hispaniola to which I beg leave to add that by other Intelligence received their Fleet at Cape Francois has been lately reinforced.

With every wish for your health and success I have the Honor to be with great respect Dear Sir &c.

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. To my great astonishment and concern the Ship containing Provisions for His Majesty's Land Forces has been most unfortunately left at St. Lucia.

The King's Troops have been obliged to Purchase Provisions for many Months past as there was not a Morsel in Store.

(Signed) A. C.

February 27th 1782

Intelligence receiv'd from the Prisoners taken in the Schooner Maria Louisa from Cape Nichola Mole to St. Iago de Cuba, Feb^{ry} 22d Don Galvez arrived at Cape Francois in the St. Juan of 80 Guns and brought in with him an English Merchant Ship of 22 Guns from Jamaica the St. Juan had 1500 Troops on board besides her Complement of 1400 Men the St. Juan had a Passage of 14 or 15 days from the Havanah, Don Salano with 8 Sail of the Line was to Sail from the Havanah 2 or 3 days after Don Galvez 8000 Troops were embarked to come under his Convoy.

There arrived about 3 Weeks ago at Cape Francois 5000 Troops under Convoy of 4 Sail of the Line and three Frigates the Ships are the

	Guns
St. Domingo	80
El Guerrero	74
St. Juan Baptiste . . .	80
St. Janeira	74
St. Aou	40
El Chairiquen	32
(Coppered) La Carvetta	32

La Tarrterelli of 40 Guns (Coppered) is the only French Ship of War in Hispaniola, wanting her Main Mast also the St. Juan above mentioned.

The Regiments from Europe, are named St. Mora Estramadura El Leon and Hibernia

20,000 Troops are sailly expected at Cape Francois from Brest.

The Militia are assembled near St. Iago to co-operate with the above Troops against the Island of Jamaica which place they mean to Attack in three different parts with 40,000 Men.

A Captain of a Frigate has been sent to Cumberland Harbour to sound the Depth of Water &c. &c. &c. 30,000 Bullocks are Collected in that Neighbourhood to transport to Jamaica.

N. B Don Galvez Ship is called the St. Juan Nepomaceno

March 17th 1782

Secret Intelligence

Left Teberon the Morning of Friday the 15th Instant, That there are at Cape Francois as follows Viz^t

	No.
Spanish Ships of the Line	7
Troops from Cadiz	5000
“ from the Havanah	2000
French Troops, Regulars	10,000
Militia of Colour	6000
That there are at St. Domingo	
Spanish Troops to March over Land	
& Rendezvous at Cape Francois .	1500
	<hr/> 24,500

That the Enemy are Ballasting their Ships for the purpose of taking Troops on Board

From Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker ¹

Sandwich Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
the 20th March 1782

Sir,

I have the Honor to transmit to you by His Majesty's Arm'd Vessel the Spanish Packet ² a Duplicate of my Letter of the 7th Instant to Sir Sam^l Hood, and a Copy of the Intelligence that was inclosed therein sent express by the Jackall arm'd Vessel.

You will now receive also some fresh Intelligence which plainly Indicates that the present Intention of the Enemy is to amuse our Fleet to Windward (which I am happy to hear is much superior to theirs) and to keep them in Check 'till they have put their Scheme into Execution, which General Campbell and myself apprehend is, to land the great Body of Troops mentioned in the Intelligence on different parts of this Island, cover'd by a Naval force strong enough to effect their purpose; and well knowing that Two Months would probably Elapse [*sic*] before you could have notice of the Attack and come to our Assistance.

¹In volume 5 of the Rodney MSS. in the Public Record Office, London, the following note, in Rodney's handwriting, is written in the margin beside a copy of this letter:

"N. B. This and Gen. Campbell's letter [of March 20, 1782] was not received, till after the defeat of the enemy's fleet."

² [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] P S. instead of sending the best and most powerful Frigate on this Important Service Sir P. Parker thought proper to trust it to a little one mast Vessel, which was a Million to One she ever joyned me.

I have great reason to flatter myself from your known Zeal for his Majesty's Service and the particular regard you have always express'd for Jamaica, that you will detach as many Ships from your Fleet as you may judge necessary to cope with the Enemy in these Seas; for altho' it is a great Consolation to the Inhabitants that you Command such a powerful Fleet to Windward, Yet the distance is so great that they cannot help dreading the consequences of a Desent which ought if possible be prevented by a Naval Force.

The *Invincible* arrived here with her Convoy the 16th Inst. the *Martin* Sloop being gone to see some Ships to their respective Ports on the North side of the Island has not join'd as yet. I am honor'd with your Letters of the 5th & 7th Instant and Congratulate you on your safe return to your Command, the state you found our affairs in must have give you great concern. you have the satisfaction however of having arrived in time to save the rest of our Islands.

Our Force here consists of two Ships of 90 Guns two of 74, two of 44 and some Frigates. You know the wretched state of the *Invincible*.¹ The *Sandwich* and *Ramillies* must go home soon to be new Bolted and fasten'd which cannot be done in this Yard—they may then be made Serviceable for some time. I acquainted the Admiralty about three Months ago, that the *Sandwich* and *Ramillies* would go to England with the first Convoy which is fix't for the 15th of next Month, provided all apprehensions of the safety of this Island should be then over I propose to go home in the *Sandwich*. I am Sir &c.

(Signed) P. PARKER

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] *Invincible* P S. he had my express desire to heave her down that she might be ready for service, but totally neglected it.

From Captain Charles Inglis

St. Albans at Sea 21st March 1782

Sir

On the 17th instant in the evening Lieut. Miller of His Maj^{ty}s Ship St. Albans under my Command, then attending the duty of the Ship upon the Quarter Deck, called me from the Cabbin, complaining that Captain Winter of the Marines had rudely obstructed him in the execution of his Duty, that there had been a disturbance on the Poop, between the Midshipman there and a Marine in Liquor, who he had order'd under the care of the Centry, till he was sober. On my coming on Deck Captain Winter was still in a passion, saying that one of the Marines had been struck. I told him his behaviour surprized me, as He knew every impropriety, was minutely enquired into, as this would be in Due time, persuasively and Authoritatively endeavor'd to sooth him which had some effect, and I retired to my Cabbin, but in a little time was Drawn out by a repetition of Riot, and Disturbance, having then again and again ordered Capt. Winter to be qui[e]t, and retire he positively refused so to do, and was accordingly put in Arrest. I am therefore to request you will order a Court Martial to try him for the same. I am Sir &c.

CHAS. INGLIS

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

From Captain Benjamin Caldwell

Agamemnon Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
21st March 1782

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to you last Monday evening two Letters to inform you of my Arrival at Barbadoes with the Magnificent. On Tuesday Evening the English

Fleet was seen to Windward of the Island, and was off Carlisle Bay Yesterday Noon when in the Evening I proceeded here with all the Ships bound to this Island and Jamaica bringing with me all the Navy Victuallers and Store Ships; directing the Trade only for Antigua Nevis, St. Christopher's and Mountserat to remain at Barbadoes until further Orders.

I beg leave to observe my Conduct proceeded from the following Memorandum.

Mem:

It is Sir George Rodney's *verbal* directions to me that the Store Ships and Victuallers (except such Victuallers as the Agent Victualler may find it convenient to detain at this Anchorage, shall proceed without loss of time together with the Store Ships under a strong Convoy to Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia.

a true Copy (was signed) Hugh C. Christian
Geo: Day

To Captain Day,
His Majesty's Sloop Surprise

Captain Cotton of the Alarm which came from England with the Convoy and inform you of the Ships that came out, and deliver you a list of them. I hope my conduct will meet with your approbation. I am Sir &c.

B: C:

As the Ships are Anchored across the Bay
Intriped
Agamemnon
Pr^s Caroline
Endymion
Magnificent
Andromache

Each Ship to have a Spring upon her Cables. To ride with half a Cable.

BEN: CALDWELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Sir,

Bedford at Sea 22d March 1782

Having received your Instructions respecting the disposition and Station of the different Squadrons of the Fleet under your Command, for the more ready service of Intercepting the Enemy, in which I am directed to be stationed to Windward of Guadaloupe with two 64 Gun Ships, and not being able from my Infirmary to wait upon you in person, I beg your directions by what Signal I am to take upon me that Station and what Ships I am to take under my Command not yet having had your leave to part Company. I am Sir &c.

EDM^D AFFLECK

To Sir G. B. Rodney Br. &c. &c. &c.

To Captain Benjamin Caldwell

Sir,

Formidable &c. 23d March 1782

I am favor'd with your's [of March 18] from Barbadoes and am glad you proposed taking the Trade with you to St. Lucia.

The Fleet having alter'd their Station, I am induced to believe is the reason you have not joined. I must therefore desire you will please to hasten to make the junction agreeable to the inclosed Rendezvous and am Sir, &c.

To Captⁿ Caldwell.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Anthony James Pye Molloy

Sir,

Formidable &c. 23d March 1782

I am favor'd with your Letter of the 20th together with the accompanying Dispatches brought by the Flag of Truce.

I am glad to hear the Works upon Pigeon Island are going on so well but it is no more than I expected to hear from your Assiduity and Attention.

When the Gros Islet has deliver'd the Dispatches she is charged with You will please to hasten her back as soon as possible with the Flag of Truce.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Molloy

To James and Richard Nesbitt of Nevis

Formidable &c. 23d March 1782

Gentlemen,

I am favor'd with your Letter of the 20th March from St. Lucia, and am sorry that your Flag of Truce had not the good Fortune to join me at Sea, that you might not have been detained longer than the Business you came upon required.

As no Person whatever can have a greater regard for the Planters & Inhabitants of Nevis than myself, You may be sure I shall be glad of every opportunity of doing them every Service in my power, consistent with the Duty I owe to my King and Country.

The Request they have made requires some explanation and altho my inclination leads me to comply with their desire I can by no means permit such Provisions as I know the French Fleet in these Seas, are greatly in want of, to pass to your Island, where it will not be in the power of the Inhabitants to prevent it's being Seized by the Enemy.

I shall be very glad to see you, the Gros Islet Schooner can bring you to my Rendezvous, and I beg you will be assured that I am with real regard, Gentlemen, Y^{rs} &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Mess^{rs} Jas. & R^d Nesbitt

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Formidable 23 March 1782

Sir

By the Gros Islet Schooner which joined the Fleet Yesterday from St. Lucia, I am honor'd with your Excellency's Letter of the 18th Instant brought there in the Flag of Truce from Barbadoes, informing me of your having received Letters from the Council and Assembly of Nevis, stating their Distress for Provisions, and requesting the Ships, expected from England by the Convoy may be permitted to sail immediately on their Arrival for that Island, conveying also some other Letters to me, for which you will please to accept my best thanks.

In answer to which I must beg leave to inform your Excellency, that I have not the least objection to the Ships in the Convoy bound to Nevis, to proceed there, provided they have no Supplies of Beef & Pork or Bread on board, as the suffering Provisions to go for the Use of the Planters of Nevis is in other Words to feed the Enemy therewith, who I know are in the utmost want of them. I think it my Duty therefore as much as in me lies to prevent their being so supplied, and that Your Excellency will to Your utmost co-operate with me therein and not suffer any of the Ships with Beef, Pork or Bread on board to Sail without they are bound to English Islands, nor even those Unless under Convoy, as Your Excellency must be convinced as well as myself the Enemy has been but too often supplied by such Pretences.

I have the Honor to be with the Highest Respect and Regard

Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Cunningham

*To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of
Barbados*

Formidable 23 March 1782

Sir

I have been honer'd with your Letter of the 13th Instant, containing a Representation of the Behaviour of Captain McLawrin, respecting the Amiable Louise, a French Merchant Vessel, secured by the Packet and claimed as a Droit of Admiralty, for the King by your Excellency.

In answer to which, I can only at present say, that as Captain McLawrin is now absent, I shall immediately on his Return cause his Conduct therein, to be strictly inquired into.

I have the Honer to be with the Highest respect and Regard

Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Cunningham

From Captain Benjamin Caldwell

Agamemnon Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
24th March 1782

Sir,

I am honor'd with your Letter of the 23d Instant & should have proceeded instantly to join you upon our arrival here but having brought down the English Convoy from Barbadoes I judged it best to remain here for their protection; of which no time was lost in sending Captain Cotton of the Alarm (a Thursday Morning) to give you information. Inclosed is a Copy of my letter and a list of the King's Ships (the Lizard, fire Ships, and other small one's excepted) as they are in a line across

the Bay. Some Victuallers, all the Jamaica Ships with the 14th Regiment on board are within us, the Navy and Army Store Ships with the other Victuallers are in the Carenage, and a disposition made (of the Armed Ships) for their protection against boats or fire Vessels.

As you did not know of the Arrival of the Fleet from England when you wrote to me on the 23d and looking upon the protection of them to be of the utmost consequence, I shall venture to take upon me to remain here until I have the honor of receiving your further directions.

My anxiety Sir, to hear from you is great, and I wait with impatience for the Alarms return. If I have erred I shall think myself unfortunate indeed.

With the assistance of Captain Molloy (of whose ability and Zeal in Service there is no occasion to comment upon) every thing goes on agreeable to your directions. I am &c.

BEN: CALDWELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

P. S. This instant Lieutenant Jennings has come to me—he left Martinique Yesterday, and brings an Account of a Convoy having arrived there last Wednesday of Sixty one Sail under Convoy of three line of Battle Ships, two Frigates and a Sloop with Six thousand Troops on board and he will have the honor of waiting upon you.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sir

Formidable 25 March 1782

As Sir Sam^l Hood has acquainted me, that Captain Wilkinson in the Prince William, when on the look out, to Windward, saw a Fleet of Ships, which he took to be the Enemy,¹ but at a very great distance to Windward,

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
twas only an English Convoy bound to Barbadoes

they hauled their Wind and stood to the Southward.

I have sent Commodore Afflex with the St. Albans & America to the Windward of Guadaloupe and Marrygallante to look out. I must desire you will order Two of the best sailing Ships of Your Squadron to stand as far South as the Lattitude of St. Vincents and return to the Fleet agreeable to the Rendezvous, keeping a very good look out, and in case of getting intilligence of the Enemy, to let me know it with all the dispatch possible, making the Signal when they come in Sight and firing Guns till tis observed.

I shall soon make the Signal for your Squadron, to go a League ahead, and Sir Samuel Hood to do the same, when we Tack.

I have the Honour to be with Great Regard
Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. Order the Captains of the two Ships you send, instantly to rejoin the Fleet, after standing to the Southward, as far as the Lattitude of St. Vincents.

To Rear Admiral Drake &ca. &ca. &ca.

From Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Barbado's 25th March 1782.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge Receipts of your Excellency's Letter of the 18th Instant from St. Lucia and one of the 19th upon the subject of the Sailing of a Convoy for England in May.

The Provision and Wine Ships shall be sent according to your Directions when Convoys are provided for them agreeably to your former Directions.

I shall be ready to lay on an Embargo when you inform me it is necessary for the King's Service.

I have not granted any Flag of Truce since my arrival in Barbado's.

The American Prisoners escape daily as we have no proper Prison for them, 12 Captains or Masters of Vessels went off at one time. I understood from Your Excellency that you meant to lodge a general Order here for all Kings Ships touching at this Port bound for St. Lucia, to take a proportion each of them away, but I do not find that executed, possible I may have mistaken your Meaning.

I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

JAS. CUNINGHAM

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

*From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados,
to Admiral Rodney's Secretary*

Barbado's March 25th 1782

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 19th Instant with it's inclosures.

I have been able to hire a very fast sailing Copper bottom'd Schooner of the description and found as per Inventory herewith inclosed but from the known good qualities (having several times looked into Brest and run thro' the French Fleet) being copper'd and so well equip'd, I am obliged to pay Five Pounds Sterling per Day which is more than the price given for the common Pilot Boats. I have agreed for her from the 27th instant when she will be able to proceed to join the Fleet should there be any Ship of War to take her under Convoy, as I presume I am not authorized to dispatch her alone without the Admirals direction. I am Sir &c.

WM. RAGGETT

To The Rev^d Mr. Pagett

From William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Barbadoes March 25th 1782

Sir,

I received your Letter of the 19th Instant, laid the Petition before the Attorney General of this Island and herewith transmit you his opinion with the Petition.

It having been hinted to me that on these occasions some Complement is usually made to the Attorney General I humbly submit the matter to your consideration. I have the honor to be &c.

WM. RAGGETT

To Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

To Major General James Cunningham, Governor of Barbados

Formidable &c. 26th March 1782

Sir,

I have been honor'd with Your Excellency's Letter of the 25th Instant informing me of your having received various Dispatches from me and of your Readiness to dispatch the Provision and Wine Vessels when Convoy offers as also of the frequent Escape of American Prisoners from the Island of Barbadoes.

In answer to which I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have order'd Captain Cotton of the Alarm who goes to Barbadoes for Gen^l Matthews's Equipage to receive 50 of the said Prisoners on board and bring them to St. Lucia, and that I have also order'd His Majesty's Ship the Prudent to proceed immediately with the Trade bound to the Leeward Islands and see them safe to St. John's Road Antigua. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Cuningham &c.

To William Raggett, Naval Storekeeper at Barbados

Formidable &c. 27th March 1782

Sir,

I have rec^d your Letter of the 25th Instant enclosing the opinion of the Attorney General of Barbadoes on the case I had sent you to lay before him, informing me that *hints* had been given you by him that a Fee was usually paid the Attorney Gen^l on such Occasions.

In answer to which I desire You will take care to pay Mr. Moore the Attorney General of Barbadoes a reasonable Gratuity for his said Opinion the same being on the publick service. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Mr. Raggett &c.

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Bedford March 27th 1782

Latt^d 15.35

Sir

I take leave to inform you by the Flag that bears this, that of a certainty three Sail of the Line with 60 Sail Merchant Ships under Convoy are Arriv'd at Martinique, from which may be conjectured that the Remainder that were seen with them off the Burlings the 24th February may be gone down to the Cape, but as it is still uncertain but some of the Straglers may be yet to pass, I shall not think myself at Liberty to leave the Station you have prescrib'd me, till I have your further Orders. I have the Honer to be Sir

Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

EDM^D AFFLECK

To Sir G. B. Rodney &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Captain Benjamin Caldwell

Formidable at Sea 28 March 1782

Sir

I am favour'd with your Letters of the 21st and 24th Instant and must desire you will please to give directions that the Ships and Frigates that came with the Convoy from England compleat their Water with all possible dispatch and hold themselves in momentary readiness for Sailing.

I must likewise desire that Yourself with the Magnificent, Endymion, Andromache & Nymphe (who is now Cruizing to Windward between Fort Royal & Pigeon Island St. Lucia) will put to Sea and Cruize between St. Anns Bay Martinique and Pigeon Island St. Lucia frequently looking into Fort Royal, and making your observations on the Enemy's Fleet. Your Squadron are daily to come in sight of the Signal House at Pigeon Island observing such Signals as may be made from thence, and making yourself known.

You are to give directions that the Fire Ships, Store Ships and Victuallers that may be in Gros Islet Bay may be instantly removed far in & on Pigeon Island side, that they may not be in the way of the Fleet, which may be hourly expected in that Bay & likewise that such Man of War as are now in the Bay be instantly Warped far in, that room may be left for the Fleet to Anchor without difficulty.

As in all probability myself or Sir Samuel Hood may be hourly expected off Point Salines or St. Lucia, I give you this Notice that you may not be alarmed at Seeing a Fleet off Point Salines, as tis necessary you put to Sea without loss of time with the Ships already mentioned & keep a watchful Eye on the Enemy's Fleet in Fort Royal Bay.

I am much concerned at the Convoys getting into Martinique; by the disposition I had made of the Fleet I though it impossible; they must have stole close to the

Island of Guadaloupe & Dominique & by that means escape the notice of my Cruizers. I have the Honer to be with great Regard

Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Caldwell
Agamemnon

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable 28 March 1782

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 27 Instant, acquainting me with the Intelligence you had received, of Three Sail of the Line with 60 Sail of Merchant Ships under Convoy, being Arrived at Martinique, which Intelligence proves too true; and as it is no longer necessary for you to continue on your present Station, I must desire you will return with His Majestys Ships under your Command, & join me off Point Salines. I have the Honor to be with Great Regard,

Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Commodore Affleck &ca. &ca. &ca.

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to William Raggett,
Naval Storekeeper at Barbados*

Formidable &c. 28th March 1782

Sir,

I have this Instant been favor'd with your Letter of March 25th desiring me to inform the Admiral that in consequence of his directions signified to you by me, You have been able to hire a very fine fast Sailing Copper'd bottom'd Schooner &c, but that you have been oblig'd

to give at the rate of £5 Sterling to commence from the 27th Instant, when she would be able to proceed under Convoy of any Man of War without which you did not think yourself authorized to send her.

In answer to which I am commanded by the Admiral to inform you that he thinks the Sum of £5 Sterling a day so extravagant that he does not chuse to have anything to do with her, And that You will discharge her as soon as possible and with as little Expence as may be to the Publick. I am Sir &c.

WM. PAGETT

To Mr. Raggett &ca.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable 29 March 1782

Sir

I am sorry to tell you notwithstanding all our Vigilance that the Enemy's Convoy consisting of 2 Line of Battle Ships & 3 Frigates with 60 Transports with 6,000 Troops are arrived at Martinique. Four Sail of the Line parted Company with them and are gone to St. Domingo, and five Sail of the Line with 3,000 Troops are gone to the East Indies.

As we have now not a Moments time to spare, it behoves us to compleat the Stores & Provisions of the Fleet with all possible dispatch; I must therefore desire that you will proceed with your Squadron to Gros Islet Bay & Anchor them on the South Side of the Bay in such a manner as to leave room for my Squadron to Anchor between them & Pigeon Island.

You will please to give directions that the ships be completed to four Months Provisions of all Species & Watered & Stowed with every Dispatch possible.

I have ordered the Agamemnon, Magnificent, Endymion, Andromache & Nympe to Cruize between St. Anns Bay & Pigeon Island daily reconnoitering the

Enemy's Fleet in Fort Royal Bay, & have given them notice that they may hourly expect you, to prevent their being alarmed. I have the Honer to be with Great Regard
Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Captain George Day

Formidable &c. 29th March 1782

Sir,

I have rec^d your Letter of the 25th Instant enclosing a List of such Merchant Ships as remain in Carlisle Bay after Captⁿ Caldwell Sailed with the Convoy for St. Lucia, and of your having given Captⁿ Caldwell a Copy of my order for Line of Battle Ships to proceed to St. Lucia as well as a Memorandum left you by Captⁿ Christian, for the Storeship and Victuallers to proceed without loss of time to Gros Islet Bay under a strong Convoy all which I very highly approve of. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Day.
Surprize

*To Major General Thomas Shirley, Governor of the
Leeward Islands*

Formidable 29th March 1782

Sir,

I have been honor'd with your Letter of the 9th Instant (enclosing also a Copy of one from the Councill & Assembly of Nevis to Your Excellency) informing me that Provision having been made by the 16th Article of these Capitulation for the safe Conduct of the Vessels bound for that Island with Supplies and that the Benefit

of the Terms of such Capitulation will depend in a great measure upon the safe Arrival of such Vessels. You have no doubt of my granting Permission to such Shipping as may arrive in any Ports within my Station to proceed accordingly.

In answer to which Your Excellency will please to be assured that I shall always be ready to the utmost of my Power to assist the Planters of the Leeward Islands and for that purpose I have order'd the Trade to be immediately convoy'd from Barbadoes to Antigua from whence permission will be given to the Ships in Question to proceed to their destination, excepting such as are loaded with Provisions purposely for Sale, or such Species as are proper to Victual Ships of War A Restriction which I flatter myself your Excellency will think necessary as it will be otherwise little less than directly furnishing the Enemy's Ships therewith.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Shirley

To the Postmaster General at Barbados

Formidable at Sea, 29th March 1782

Sir,

I have been favor'd with your Letter of the 24th Instant informing me of the Appointment to be Post Master of Barbadoes and inclosing me several Letters which had long lain in the Office (One a Year and a half) during the time of your Predecessor.

I am much obliged to you not only for your Care and Attention in forwarding those Letters but also for your very obliging Offers in other Respects and have not the least doubt but the Publick from the New Arrangements You have establish'd will reap a considerable Advantage on your Appointment to the Office, which I hope too may

turn out equally advantageous and agreeable to yourself. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

G. Errington Esq^r
Post Master General
Barbadoes

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable &c. 30th March 1782

Sir,

As I propose going into Port with my Squadron this day I must desire you will please to order the Prince George and Torbay to follow me in, and remain with the remainder of your Squadron and the three Ships under Commodore Affleck off Point Salines for Forty eight hours, ordering some of your Ships to look into St. Ann's Bay and Fort Royal daily that I may be acquainted with the situation of the Enemy and their Motions. I have already order'd the Agamemnon, and three Frigates off St. Ann's Bay. You will please to take them all under your Command except the Agamemnon, order her to join me.

As I have observ'd that the Ships going into Port frequently crowd too close to one another I have given directions that they keep half a mile distance in going into Port to give time for the Ship ahead to Anchor & bring up, and that they go in according to seniority. Please to give the same directions to your Squadron and that the Prince George and Torbay, anchor without my Squadron.

When you come in please to leave Commodore Affleck with five sail of the line, between Point Salines and Pidgeon Island with orders to look daily into Fort Royal and Saint Anns taking care to keep to Windward in the Night and at daylight his best sailing Frigates to look into Fort Royal. Every moment is now precious. No time will be allowed but to take in Stores, Water and Provisions those Ships of your Division which did not

come out of England with me, to have their demands ready and take them on board with every dispatch possible after they Anchor. Please to send one of your Ships to Commodore Affleck he Cruizes from Dominique to Windward of Gaudeloup at the same distance we were from Martinique. I have sent a Sloop but he may miss him. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable in Gros Islet Bay
St. Lucia 31st March 1782.

Sir,

Having received Information of two American Privateers being Cruizing to Windward off Dominique, I have Order'd Captain Ford in the Nymph to proceed to Quest of them.

You will please to order Commodore Affleck to return directly into this Bay and remain yourself with five or six of the Line of Battle which you judge properest for that purpose in your present Station 'till your Signal is made to come in or 'till you hear further from Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admirals Hood and Drake

Formidable 31st March 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to give orders to the Captains of your Squadron to compleat their Stores Water and Provisions of all Species to four Months as expeditiously as possible and hold themselves in momentary readiness to put to Sea. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Hood & Drake

To Fergus Paterson

Formidable 31st March 1782

Sir,

I desire you will procure all the Craft that possibly can be got and cause the Provisions of such Ships as are Watering at the Cul de Sac in Chocque Bay to be sent on board them with all the Dispatch possible, as it is the Duty of the Contractor to send the same to them and that not a moments time be lost in sending round the Provision Vessels for the Rest of the Fleet in this Bay as it is of the utmost Consequence that they are immediately compleated. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Mr. Fergus Paterson &c.

*To the Merchants of St. Christopher, Nevis, and
Montserrat*

Formidable 31st March 1782.

Gentlemen,

Having in consequence of your Petition to me of March 9th 1782 requesting Permission to import the Produce of the Captur'd Islands in Neutral Bottoms to the Island of St. Lucia and to carry back in Return, Utensils, Goods, Plantations, and Stores the Produce of Great Britain taken the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney-General of Barbadoes and received his Answer on the Case I herewith inclose you a Copy thereof and to assure you that I shall willingly act in Conformity thereto, being desirous in every Respect in my power to encourage the Trade, Manufactures and Commerce of Great Britain and to accomodate you. At the same time I trust that You Gentlemen will be particularly careful to prevent Provisions Arms Ammunition or any thing else that sound Policy should prohibit being exported under the Colour of Permission as may be granted to the Masters

of Neutral Vessels to pass between those Islands & St. Lucia on this occasion. I am Sir &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur Gros Islet Bay
April 2d 1782

Sir,

On my Arrival here on the 29th of last Month I order'd the Contractors Agent for victualling his Majesty's Navy to send the Provision Vessels to this Bay immediately, one only is come and that one but just anchored why the whole could not have been here so soon as the Victuallers with the Kings Provisions on board, is very mysterious to me, as all were order'd at the same time, And the latter came the day your Division anchored. I sent Captain Knight to acquaint you with this neglect of the Contractors Agent, but being told he could not see you, the Message was deliver'd to Sir Chas. Douglass. I am &c.

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c. SAM: HOOD

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sir Formidable &c. 2d April 1782

I am this Instant honor'd with your Letter and beg leave to acquaint you that I have already very severely reprimanded the Contractor for His Delay in not hastening the Provision Vessels to this Bay and assured him that I shall immediately break the Contract in case I hear of any more delays and begin on the Victuallers arrived from England belonging to Government. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable Gros Islet Bay &c.
3d April 1782.

Sir,

I send the Duke de Esseack express to acquaint you that the Convoy from Great Britain are arrived with the 14th Regiment bound to Jamaica as the Enemy's Fleet consisting of 36 Ships of the Line and ten Frigates are now at Fort Royal. I shall hold myself and the Fleet under my Command in momentary readiness to attack or follow them, should they move from their Port. I have likewise the 69th Regiment on board the Fleet and hourly expect a Convoy with Troops from Ireland and shall not run the risque of the Jamaica Convoy being intercepted but propose to protect them in their Passage with the Fleet under my Command, and have not a doubt but that the Ships under your Command will be kept in momentary readiness to join me, upon your receiving notice of my being off the East end of Jamaica or upon the Enemy's Coasts of Cuba or St. Domingo. the Great Force of the Enemy will require a speedy Junction of all His Majesty's Squadrons in these Seas. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Rowley
or Commander in Chief
Jamaica

*To the Governor of Jamaica
(Major General John Dalling)*

Formidable &c. 3d April 1782

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity to acquaint your Excellency that the Convoy from Great Britain are arrived at this Island, with the 14th Regiment. I have likewise

the 69th Regt. on board the Fleet, both of which are destined for the Protection of your Island, the Convoy from Cork are hourly expected, in which I am informed some Regiments are Embarked.

The Enemy's Force in these Seas are 36 Sail of the Line & 10 Frigates they keep themselves close in Fort Royal Bay and seem to be near ready. You may depend upon my watching them and if they give me an opportunity of attacking them. should they escape the attack in these seas, that Great Event must be decided in those near your Island. The Force of His Majesty's Fleet in these Seas are 38 Sail of the Line, all of which you may be sure shall come to the assistance of Jamaica should the Enemy delay sailing in order to deceive me, while (maybe) Jamaica is attack'd. I shall continue here but a short time and proceed with all possible dispatch to prevent their designs taking place. I have the Honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. I have wrote to Adm^l Rowley to have his Squadron ready to join me on my approach off Jamaica.

His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica.

To the Commanding Officer at Barbados

Formidable Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia
4th April 1782

Sir,

I desire you will please to direct the Captains of the Barbadoes and Stormont to transmit me the state and Condition of their Sloops with the Progress they make in Compleating and that Captⁿ Douglass of the former to repair to this Bay with the first Man of War that comes down and Captain Cobb of the latter to remain

in Carlisle Bay 'till further orders, both to be Man'd from the Men who recover at the Hospital. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Commanding Officer at Barbadoes

To Joseph Keeling, Collector of Customs at Barbados

Formidable &c. 4th April 1782

Sir,

I am this day favored with your Letter of the 18th March and am much concerned to find you have been indisposed but I flatter myself you are perfectly Recover'd. The Danish Vessels may be permitted to Sail for this Island as they are loaded with Provisions belonging to the Contractor for the Use of His Majesty's Ships.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Joseph Keeling Esq^r

Collector of His Majesty's Customs at Barbadoes

To Thomas Shirley, Contractor for the Navy at Barbados

Formidable &c. 4th April 1782

Sir,

I cannot help complaining of the gross neglect of your Agent at this Island in supplying His Majesty's Fleet under my Command with Provisions and especially at his landing the Cargoes of 2 Vessels in the Carenage, when the Fleet were expected into Port and perfectly

well known his great want of every Species of Provisions.
I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. the Danish Ships with Provisions may come down
under this Convoy.

To Thos. Shirley, Contractor for the Navy
Barbadoes

To Captain Thomas West

Formidable &c. 5th April 1782

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship the Shrewsbury under your Com-
mand having been found on Survey incapable of serving
in the Line,

I am to acquaint you that on account of such Incapa-
bility she will in future be left out of the Line of Battle
accordingly until further Order.

I am Sir &c.

To Captain West
Shrewsbury

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 5th April 1782.

Sir,

Whereas His Majesty's Ship Shrewsbury has been re-
ported unfit to perform her Duty in the Line of Battle,
I have thought proper to order the Magnificent to supply
her place in your Division and am with great regard
S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Gentlemen, Formidable &c. 5th April 1782

Herewith I inclose you a letter from Captⁿ Barbor informing me that John Mason one of the Six Men belonging to His Majesty's Ship Fame on whom he had requested by Letter of the 3d March might be tryd at a Court Martial for Crimes therein mentioned, had desired to be admitted an Evidence and beg leave to acquaint You that I have no manner of Objection provided the Court consents thereto.

I am &c.

To Fra^s Sam^l Drake Esq^r &c. &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Sir, Formidable &c. 5th April 1782

Having received a Letter from Captain Winter of the Marines on board His Majesty's Ship St. Albans requesting that the Order for his being tryed by a Court Martial (which Order has been transmitted to you) may be withdrawn and Captⁿ Inglis having likewise by Letter requested the same I have assented thereto and am to desire you will please to cause the said Order and Captain Inglis's Letter accompanying it to be returned to me. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Fra^s Sam^l Drake Esq^r &c. &c. &c.

From John Marr, Agent Victualer at St. Lucia

Sir, Pigeon Island St. Lucia 5th April 1782

I presume it becomes an indispensable Duty in me to represent to you that the Bread Cask Staves, that are re-

turned from the Ships of the Fleet under your Command are of no kind of Use to me in the Cooperage and of little Value to the Crown should they be sent home in the empty Navy Victuallers. And as I have great Reason to imagine that the said Staves would Yield a considerable profit should they be sold at publick Vendue, the Sale of which being first advertized in the Publick Papers, I am to request you will to take the same into your Consideration and give such Directions therein as you shall judge expedient for the good of the King's Service.

I am Sir &c.

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

JOHN MARR

To Major-General Edward Mathew

D^r Sir, Formidable &c. 6th April 1782

By Intelligence I received last night from Port Royal the Enemy have Embark'd Nine thousand Troops and from what I can learn are ready to proceed. You may depend upon a watchful Eye being kept on them and that the Fleet under my Command are kept in a Condition to Sail at a Moment's Warning, Night, or day.

It is necessary that Gen^l Skeene and all the Officers should repair on board.

I have not had One Single Moment to myself since I had the Honor of seeing you. I am Sir &c.

To Gen^l Mathew

G. B. RODNEY

To John Marr, Victualing Agent at St. Lucia

Sir, Formidable &c. 6th April 1782

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having signified to me by Letter that Mr. Wm. Ward who is

under Contract for supplying His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica with Provisions having found many and great difficulties in Shipping Provisions for the Use of the Ships at that Island and that if a Fleet should go down to Jamaica it will be impossible for him to get Provisions there in time to supply them.

I am therefore to desire you will take care that a sufficient number of Victuallers be ready to go with, or follow the Fleet to Jamaica and in case any Ships arrive with Wine, You will also forward them under Convoy of Ships of War which I shall appoint for that purpose; and on no account to send Rum or any other Spirits to the Fleet if Wine can be procured. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To John Marr Esq^r

To Rear Admiral the Honorable Robert Digby

Sent by the Hornett

Formidable &c. 6th April 1782

Sir,

I dispatch His Majesty's Sloop the Hornett to acquaint you of my arrival in these Seas and altho' we came too late to save the Islands of St. Christopher's, Nevis and Montserrat from falling into the hands of the Enemy yet we have prevented their further Conquests and tis with great pleasure I can acquaint you that His Majesty's Fleet in these Seas are now superior to the Enemy's, are complete in every respect and wait in momentary readiness to attack the Enemy whenever an opportunity offers.

The enclosed List will shew you their force, their Troops are Embarked and I suppose they intend to take the advantage of the first dark Night to push for their place of destination which by every Intelligence I have received is to attack the Island of Jamaica.

You may be sure that I will not detain the Force necessary for the protection of America longer than necessity

obliges me, but the very great Force of the Combin'd Fleets of France & Spain whose Rendezvous is appointed at Cumberland Harbour in the Island of Cuba will be such as to require the utmost force I can possibly assemble to decide the Great Event which I hope will again Restore to Great Britain Her Empire over the Ocean—when that has happened you may be sure I will detach a very considerable Squadron to join you, and will take every opportunity of sending quick sailing Vessels (if to be procured) to acquaint you with our proceedings, and hope you will do the same. My Rendezvous will be off the East end of Jamaica, or off the West end of St. Domingo, if not there, Port Royal Jamaica, but my intention if I have not an opportunity of attacking the Enemy before will be off their own Coast.

Inclosed I have the Honor of sending you a list of the British and French Force in these Seas & am with real regard S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Digby &c. &c. &c.
America

From Captain Robert Fanshawe

Namur Gros Islet Bay 6th April 1782

Sir,

Having lately received certain Memorandums without the Signature of any Officer having competent authority setting forth that "it is the Admiral's directions" that His Majesty's Ships under your Command should compleat their Provisions to four Months and their Beef and Pork to five Months I humbly beg leave to trouble you for your order and signature thereto for such purpose, as the General printed Naval Instructions Page 206 Article 18 forbid me to compleat my Provisions to more than three Months, a Conformity to which authority I esteem an indispensable duty on me, untill otherwise directed by

order signed by some Officer very superior, in a station qualify'd to give it. I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

ROBT. FANSHAWE

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable &c. 6th April 1782

Sir,

It being necessary for His Majesty's Service that the Ships now watering and Victualling to Leeward immediately rendezvous here I must desire You will come away with them whether compleated or not the Instant You receive this, and anchor with them without all in this Bay. I am S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Commodore Affleck

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Bedford Gros Islet Bay April 6th 1782

Sir,

The being confined to my Cabbin with a very painful inflammatory Complaint in my face prevents me from the Honor of waiting upon you I must therefore send Captain Graves in my Stead to whom I beg to refer you for any particulars relative to the Ships immediately under my Eye at the Cul de Sac to all whom I deliver'd your directions the moment I received them this Morning to join you without a moment's loss of time. I am Sir &c.

EDM: AFFLECK

To S^r G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Formidable &c. 7th April 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to deliver the Inclosed Orders to the respective Captains at your Island. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To John Laforey Esq^r

To John Marr, Agent Victualer at St. Lucia

Formidable &c. 7th April 1782

Sir,

As the important Service of His Majesty's Fleet prevents my attending to settling the several Accounts of the Expences incur'd by erecting Hospitals, Forts and other Publick Works on the Island of Gros Islet, essentially necessary for His Majesty's Service and your Residence on the said Island in a Publick Employ will put it in your Power with out Inconvenience to audit the different Accounts, among which the most considerable is that of Mr. Paterson who has paid the Disbursements already made on that Head.

I must desire You will take to your Assistance the Master Builder and Storekeeper and with them audit and settle the Accounts of the said Mr. Paterson or any other that may have just demands for such Works as are already compleated or in Hand, but nothing new is to be undertaken without the approbation of Rear Admiral Drake or the Senior Officer left with the Command in these Seas during my absence, excepting such as you shall judge necessary for your own use and that of your Office or other Erections necessary to carry on the Duty of Agent Victualler, and as a Storekeeper is now fix'd

there, all further Payments are to be made by him. You and the Builder having first attested the Account and the same being approved by Rear Admiral Drake the Admiral or Senior Officer on the Station (when there is no Admiral) during my absence.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Jn^o Marr Esq^r

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable 8 April 1782 at day light

Dear Sir

The Enemy are coming out. I must desire therefore that you will make the Signal and get under weigh with your Division, and Order all the other Ships belonging to the other Divisions that may be in the way to do the same, and stand with easy Sail to the Northward to give room for the whole Fleet to get out. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake &ca. &ca. &ca.

*From Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy
at the Leeward Islands*

Robust in English Harbour April 8th 1782

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to you last on the 1st Instant by His Majesty's Ship Triton.

On the 6th an Express Boat with Dispatches for you from Jamaica came off the Harbour. I hope they will reach you if not it is owing to the Officer commanding

her not complying with the Directions he received to anchor in Freeman's Bay in which case, I should have been able to make a Duplicate of his Dispatches in order for their following him; he had been fourteen days from that Island, it was not then invested by the Enemy, but they were under apprehensions of an Attack.

On the 7th the Berbice Schooner came in with her Main Mast sprung and some other Damage, she had Dispatches for you from Captain Linzee of the Santa Monica at Tortola, as the Gros Islet which is coppered and nearly refitted will be ready before the Berbice's Defects can be repaired I send Lieutenant Thompson's Dispatches by her.

On the same day the English Trade from Barbadoes under the Prudent's Convoy passed by to St. John's, the Stormont came in here and the Barbadoes which attended the Convoy to St. John's is coming round, they are both so long foul that they must be careened.

I have ordered the Prudent to this Port to take the Blast Fireship under her Convoy to the Fleet.

The Tickler Brig is careened and will be ready to Sail in a few days but all her Men are lent to the Fleet, the Pacahunta will be in the same situation when she is hove down.

A Privateer belonging to this Island arrived on the 6th Instant with an American Prize from Port au Prince bound for St. Thomas's, the Master of the Prize reports that on the 31st Unt^o in Lat: 23.00 and Long: 65.00 he saw forty Ships, some of them very large and two Brigs steering E. S. E. there must be a mistake in the Course they were said to be steering.

The Storekeeper of the Ordnance has represented to me that the Beds of the Mortars put on shore from the Aetna and Carcass Bombs will be subject to decay here and proposed sending them with their Mortars home in the Robust will you please to signify to me whether you approve of that measure. I am Sir &c.

JN^O LAFOREY

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*To Rear Admiral Sir Peter Parker or Rear Admiral
Joshua Rowley*

Sent by the Zebra

Formidable off Dominique 10th April 1782

Sir,

I am to acquaint you that the day before Yesterday the 8th Instant, the French Fleet and their Transports with Troops put to Sea and Steered Seemingly for Guadeloupe. I followed them immediately, and Yesterday Morning at day light came up with them under the Lee of Dominique. When the Baffling Winds would permit, my Van and part of my Center brought them to Action, but the greatest part of the time the Enemy who had the Wind took the Advantage thereof by keeping at a considerable distance and expending a great deal of Powder and Shot unnecessary, however they made shift to Cripple the Royal Oak which has obliged me to send her ¹ to Port Royal to be Refitted. Where I make not the least doubt but you will give the necessary orders that the utmost dispatch be used not only in regard to her, but of every Ship of your Squadron, the whole of which will be wanted at this important Crisis.

I am to acquaint you that I ordered the Convoy bound to Jamaica to Sail Yesterday at day light from St. Lucia under the protection of the Shrewsbury, Intrepid, and Princess Caroline the 14th Regiment comes with them. The 69th Regiment on board the Fleet as part of their Complement to be landed at Jamaica should there be occasion.

Sixteen Ships of my Rear could not join in the Action with the Enemy's Fleet Yesterday owing to the Calms and baffling Winds under Dominique.

We are now endeavoring to bring Mons^r de Grasse to a second action; should we fail in that wish, and he es-

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:]
did not send her but refitted her at sea

cape to Leeward You may hourly expect me with the whole Fleet off the East end of Jamaica where I make no doubt but you will join me with all your Force. As Frigates will be dispatched to acquaint you with the approach of the Fleet under my Command.

As several Ships of my Van particularly the Royal Oak and Montagu have suffered in their Masts I beg leave to Recommend¹ it to your Consideration whether the great Storeship which I have sent under the Convoy and has a considerable quantity of Masts in her should not be unloaded with dispatch, that they may be ready for such Ships of the Fleet under my Command as may be disabled²

I have the Honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Peter Parker or
Rear Adm^l Rowley &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 10th April 1782

Sir,

I am favor'd with your Letter of this day and am very much concerned the Service has lost so good an Officer as Captⁿ Bayne and at the situation the Alfred is in with respect to her Masts and Fore Yards as well as the small Quantity of Powder remaining on board. I shall take care to order a further supply of that Article to be sent to her from those Ships that can best spare it. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] totally neglected

² [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] P S. notwithstanding this important Crisis, not the least attention was paid to my letter.

To Five Captains

Formidable off Dominique

10th April 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will without one Moment's loss of time join me with His Majesty's Ship under your Command between Dominique and Guadaloupe to Leeward of those Islands, where I am at present with the Fleet under my Command

Should you not find me at this Station, you are to proceed agreeable to the Inclosed Rendezvous. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain	Barkley	Prudent
"	Rodney	Sybil
"	Linzee	Santa Monica
"	Christian	Fortunée
"	Ford	Nymphe

To the Commanding Officer at St. Lucia

Formidable &c. 10th April 1782

Sir,

If the Prudent, Sybil, Santa Monica or Fortunée are arrived at St. Lucia, they are to join me without loss of time agreeable to the Inclosed Rendezvous. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Command^r Officer, St. Lucia*From Captain Edmund Dod*

Lizard Gros Islet Bay St. Lucia

12th April 1782

Sir,

Tuesday the 9th Instant the Intrepid Sailed with the Jamaica Convoy, and at 9 A. M. His Majesty's Ship Sybil

arrived here from Barbadoes and before she anchored I sent a Lieutenant on board, to acquaint Captⁿ Rodney, that Captⁿ Molloy had left directions with me to send him immediately after him, agreeable to your orders; the Intrepid being then in sight Captⁿ Rodney made Sail and joined him; I have removed all the Storeships and Victuallers nearer to Pigeon Island within the Lizard and shall begin tomorrow to get the Masts and Spars out of the Mersey Store Ship, Mr. Turquand having informed me it was your directions to him the Ten Guns sent on shore to Pigeon Island from the Shrewsbury shall be got up as soon as the Cheif Engineer has pointed out the most Eligible place for them to be mounted; Yesterday Morning the La Nymph Anchored here and at 2 P. M. the same day arrived here His Majesty's Armed Vessel Spanish Packet Lieut. Nevill Commander with Dispatches from Sir Peter Parker and General Campbell to you and General Mathews (whose Dispatches I forwarded immediately to the Morne Fortunée by an Officer) the Originals of the 17th March was sent by His Majesty's Schooner Jackal, which in all probability has miscarried from the Intelligence we received from Lieut. Nevill of the momentary expectations of the Island being attacked. I concur'd in opinion with Capt. Ford (the Senior Captain) to open the Dispatches and take Copys of them to be carried by Captain Ford who means to go in search of you to Leeward of the Islands and the Armed Vessel to steer directly for the East end of Jamaica and Cruize till you join him that being the place you appointed Capt. Molloy to Cruize for you. as soon as I have compleated her Water and Provisions from the Lizard and a few Stores which she is greatly in want of, she will sail directly.

I have the Honor to be &c.

EDM^D DOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Captain Edmund Dod

Sent by the Triton

Formidable &c. 13th April 1782

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship the Nymph join'd me Yesterday with your Letter of the 12th Instant informing me of the Sailing of the Jamaica Convoy under Capt. Molloy on the 9th and that the Sybil had followed him as also of the Arrival of His Majesty's Armed Vessel the Spanish Packet with Dispatches from Jamaica and of the Steps you have in Consequence taken; All which I very highly approve.

Capt. McLaurin will inform you of the Particulars of the important Victory (with which His Majesty's Fleet under my Command has been crown'd) over the Count de Grasse on the 12th Instant. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Capt. Dod

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Original sent by Lord Cranstoun in the Andromache

Formidable at Sea 14th April 1782

Sir,

I have just received the enclosed Intelligence from Jamaica which I have the Honor to send you for their Lordship's inspection.

I have the Honor to S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

A List of the Killed & Wounded in the Ships under the Command of Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. on the 9th and 12th of April 1782

(Original sent by Lord Cranstoun in the Andromache 15th April 1782)

Ships Names	Commanders	Killed	Wounded	Officers Killed & Wounded
Royal Oak	Captain Burnett	7	29	Mr. Gwatkin 1st Lt. Killed
Alfred Montagu	" Bayne " Bowen	11	40	Capt. [Wm. Bird] Marines Wounded Captain Bayne Killed Mr. Cade Master killed
		11	29	
Yarmouth Valiant	" Parrey " Goodall	14	33	Lts. Breedon & Buchan of Marines Wounded
		9	26	
Barfleur	Sir Sam'l Hood Bart. Captain Knight " Reynolds " Sir Jas. Wallace	10	37 1 since dead 33 20	Lt. Wimbleton killed, Mr. Brown 5th Lt. & Mr. Backhouse Marines Wounded
Monarch Warrior		16		
Belliqueux Centaur		5		
Magnificent	Captain Sutherland " Inglefield " Linzee	4	10	Mr. Stone, Master wounded
		—	—	
		6	10	No returns having a prize in tow & not joined Captain Ragg of Marines Wounded

Ships Names	Commanders	Killed	Wounded	Officers Killed & Wounded
Prince William Bedford	Captain Wilkinson Commodore Affleck	none	none	
Ajax	Captain Graves " Charrington	9	17	
Repulse	" Dumaresq	9	38	Lieut. Elliot & Mr. Thos. Rossiter Pilot, Wounded Capt ^a of Marines & Mas ^r Wounded latter since dead
Canada St. Albans Namur Formidable	H ^o W ^m Cornwallis Captain Inglis " Fanshawe Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. Sir Chas. Douglass Bt. 1st Capt. Captain Symons The Rt. Hon ^{ble} Lord Cranstoun Captain Gardner	12 12 6 14	33 6 25 37	Lt. Hele Killed, Cap ^a Bell & Lt. Harris Mar ^a Wounded
Duke		13	57	Lt. Cornish, Mr. Cooper Mas ^r & Mr. Scott Boatsw ⁿ Wounded
Agamemnon	" Caldwell	14	22	Lts. Ingleton & Brice Wounded, latter since dead
Resolution	Rt. H ^o Lord R ^t Manners	4	34	Lord Robt. Manners, Wounded
Prothée	Captain Buckner	5	24	Mr. Thos. Love, Master, Wounded

Heracles	Captain Savage	6	18	Lt. Hobart Killed Capt. Savage, Wounded
America	" S. Thompson	8	27	Lt. Callowhill Killed, & Lt. Trelawney Wounded
Russel	" Saumarez	10	29	Captain Blair Killed Lt. Mounier, Marines Killed
Fame	" Barbor	3	12	
Anson	" Blair	2	13	
Torbay	" Gedoin	3	25	
Prince George	" Williams	9	24	Lts. Dundass & McDowall & Lt. Laban Mar ^a Wounded
Princessa	Fra ^s Sam ^t Drake Esq ^r Capt. Knatchbull	3	19	
Conqueror	Captain Balfour	7	23	No return not join'd having a prize in Tow
Nonsuch	" Truscott	3	3	
Alcide	" C. Thompson	—	—	
Arrogant	Captain Cornish	4	11	
Marlbrough	" Penny	3	16	
Delivered in since the Original Account				
Centaur	Capt. Inglefield	8	14	Lost in the Cæsar which blew up in the Night after the Action, Lt. Rt. Hayes, Mr. Row Boatsw ^a Mr. Christer, Lt. Marines, 25 Seamen & 7 Marines
Alcide	" C. Thompson	7	25	
Royal Oak	" Burnett	13	25	

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sent by the Nymph

Formidable between Guadaloupe & Montserrat
the 14th of April 1782.

Sir,

I am this moment favor'd with Your Letter of the 20th of March and have the pleasure to acquaint you that after having a partial Engagement with the French Fleet on the 9th in which Sixteen of my Rear having been becalmed under Dominique could not join in the Action, on the 12th I had the good fortune to bring them to a general Action, which lasted from 7 o'Clock in the Morning 'till half past Six in the Afternoon without One moments intermission. Count de Grasse with the Ville de Paris and four other Ships of the Line are in our possession. Jamaica was certainly their Object. I am hastening with my whole Fleet to succour Jamaica and wish you could join me with such Ships and Frigates as are ready off the East end that we may keep the Enemy at a distance and prevent their hostile Attack.

I send a List of the French Ships that are taken the remainder of their Fleet are in so Shatter'd a Condition that it must be a very considerable time before they can possibly be repaired. their loss in Men is inconceivable as their whole Army consisting of 5,400 Men were on board the Ships of War, with their whole Train of Artillery. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Sir P: Parker &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable &c. 14th April 1782

Sir,

I am this Moment favor'd with Your Excellency's Letter and have the happiness to acquaint you that after

having had a partial Engagement with the Enemy on the 9th wherein Sixteen of my Rear were prevented by Calms from joining in the Action. On the 12th I had the good fortune to bring them to a general Action which lasted from Seven o'Clock in the Morning 'till half past Six in the Afternoon without One Moments intermission. Count de Grasse with the Ville de Paris and four other Ships of the Line graced the Victory, the remainder of their Fleet were so miserably shatter'd and their Loss in Men so very great from their having their whole Army consisting of 5,500 Men on board the Ships of War that I am convinced it will be almost impossible to put them in a condition for Service for some very considerable time.

I am hastening with my whole Fleet for the succour of Jamaica and you may hourly expect me, with such Ships of my Fleet as are in a condition to keep the Sea off the East end of your Island, not a few will be obliged to repair to Port Royal to be refitted.

I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Gen^l Campbell

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Originals sent by Lord Cranstoun in the Andromache

Formidable at Sea 14th April 1782.

Sir,

It has pleased God, out of His Divine Providence to Grant to His Majesty's Arms, a most Complete Victory over the Fleet of His Enemy Commanded by the Count De Grasse, who is himself Captur'd with the Ville de Paris and four other Ships of his Fleet besides one sunk in the Action.

This important Victory was obtain'd on the 12th Instant after a Battle which lasted with unremitting Fury

from Seven in the Morning 'till half past Six in the Evening when the setting Sun put an end to the Contest.

Both Fleets have greatly suffered, but it is with the highest satisfaction I can assure their Lordship's that tho' the Masts, Sails Rigging and Hulls of the British Fleet are damaged, yet the loss of Men has been but small considering the length of the Battle, and the Close Action they so long sustained, and in which both Fleets looked upon the Honor of their King and Country to be most essentially concerned.

The great Supply of Naval Stores lately arrived in the West Indies, will I flatter myself soon repair all the damages His Majesty's Fleet has sustained

The Gallant Behaviour of the Officers and Men of the Fleet I have the Honor to Command has been such as must forever endear them to all Lovers of their King and Country.

The Noble Behaviour of my second in Command, Sir Sam^l Hood, who in both Actions most conspicuously exerted himself demands my warmest encomiums; my Third in Command, Rear Admiral Drake, who with his Division led the Battle on the 12th Instant deserves the highest praise, nor less can be given to Commodore Affleck for His Gallant behavior in leading the Center Division. My own Captain Sir Chas. Douglas merits every thing I can possibly say, his unremitted Diligence and activity greatly eased me in the unavoidable fatigue of the day. In short I want words to express how sensible I am of the meritorious Conduct of all the Captains, Officers and Men, who had a Share in this Glorious Victory, obtained by their Gallant Exertions.

The Enemy's whole Army consisting of Five thousand Five hundred Men were on board their Ships of War; the Destruction among them must have been prodigious as for the greatest part of the Action every Gun told, and their Lordships may judge what Havock must have been made when the Formidable fired near Eighty Broadides.

Enclosed I have the Honor to send for their inspection the British and French Lines of Battle, with an Account

of the Killed and Wounded and Damages sustain'd by His Majesty's Fleet.

Lord Cranstoun who acted as one of the Captains of the Formidable during both Actions and to whose Gallant Behaviour I am much indebted will have the Honor of delivering these Dispatches to him I must refer their Lordships for every minute particular they may wish to know, he being perfectly Master of the whole Transaction.

That the British Flag may forever flourish in every Quarter of the Globe, is the most ardent Wish of him who has the Honor of being with great Regard Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Original sent by Lord Cranstoun in the Andromache

Formidable &c. 14th April 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships that notwithstanding the Disposition I had made of His Majesty's Fleet under my Command, which were Stationed to Windward of the French Islands in a Line stretching from the Latitude of Desiada to the Latitude of St. Vincent's with a Line of Frigates to Windward which their Lordship's may perceive by the disposition of the Fleet I have the Honor to enclose and which Disposition was thought by every Officer of the Fleet to be such as to render it impossible for any Convoy bound to the French Islands to escape, yet notwithstanding the Vigilance of every Captain and Officer the Enemy found means to escape by making the Island of Desiada and Creeping close under Guadaloupe and Dominick they arrived safe in the Bay of Fort Royal on the 20th and 21st of March.

Information having been given me of this unlucky Event I thought it my Duty instantly to return to the Bay of Gros Islet at St. Lucia where I had order'd the Storeships, Victuallers and Trade bound to Jamaica to Rendezvous.

On my arrival in that Bay every dispatch possible was made in refitting the Fleet and taking in Stores and Provisions to five Months of all Species for the whole Fleet a Watchful Eye being kept the whole time on the French Fleet in the Bay of Fort Royal as I knew that Count de Grasse would hasten the Refitting of his Fleet and take the first opportunity of proceeding to the place of his destination.

On the 5th April I received Intelligence that the Enemy were embarking their Troops on board the Ships of War and concluded they intended to Sail in a very few days.

Captain Byron of the *Andromache* an Active, Brisk, and Diligent Officer Watched their motions with such attention that on the 8th Instant at day light he made the Signal of the Enemy's coming out and standing to the North West. I instantly made the Signal to Weigh and having looked into the Bays of Fort Royal and St. Pierre's where no Enemy's ships remain'd I made the Signal for a general Chace and before day light, came up with the Enemy under Dominique where both Fleets were becalmed and continued so for some time. The Enemy first got the Wind and stood towards Guadaloupe. My Van Division under that Gallant Officer Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood received it next and stood after them. at 9 the Enemy began to Canonade my Van which was returned with the greatest briskness.

The baffling Winds under Dominique did not permit part of the Center Division to get into Action with the Enemy's Rear 'till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 and then only the Ship next to me in the Line of Battle.

Their Lordship's may easily imagine the Mortification it must have been to the Sixteen Gallant Officers Commanding the Ships of the Rear who could only be Spec-

tators of an Action in which it was not in their power to join being detained by the Calms under Dominique.

The Enemy's Canonade Ceased upon my Rear's approach but not before they had done considerable damage to the Ships of the Van and disabled the Royal Oak and Montagu and His Majesty had lost a Gallant Officer, Viz^t Capt^a Bayne of the Alfred and a number of Officers as mentioned in the Account transmitted to their Lordships but such was the steady behaviour of Sir Sam^l Hood and the Ships of the Van that the Enemy received more damage than they occasioned.

The Night of the 9th Instant the Fleet lay too to repair their damages, the 10th they continued to turn to Windward under an easy Sail, the Enemy's Fleet continuing to do the same and always had it in their power to come to Action which they most cautiously avoided and rendered it impossible for me to force them in the situation they were in between the Saints and the Island of Dominique. On the 11th of April the Enemy having gained considerably to Windward and the Wind blowing a fresh and steady Gale I made the Signal for a General Chace to Windward which continued the whole day, towards sunset some of the Weathermost Ships of the Fleet had approached near to one of the Enemy's Ships that had received Damage in the late Action and had certainly taken her if Count de Grasse had not borne down with his whole Fleet for her protection which brought him so near that I flatter'd myself he would give me an opportunity of engaging him the next day, with that View I threw out the Signal for the Form of Sailing and stood with the whole Fleet to the Southward 'till two o'Clock in the Morning then Tacked and had the happiness at day light to find my most Sanguine desire was near being accomplished by my having it in my power to force the Enemy to Battle. Not one Moment was lost in putting it into Execution, the consequence has been such as I have had the honor to represent to their Lordships in my former Letter of this day and can say no more than that too much praise cannot be given to the Gallant

Officers and the Men of the Fleet I had the Honor to Command.

I am Sir &c.

To Philip Stephens Esq^r Admiralty

From Captain Taylor Penny

Marlborough at Sea 15th April 1782.

Sir,

I beg leave to inclose you Lieut. Tripps Letter to me complaining that his Character has been aspersed on board the Formidable, by Lieut. Gardner 2d Lieut. of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, of his behaving cowardly when in Action with the French Fleet on the 12th Instant, and that I should have called him, at several times a Cowardly Scoundrel, and desired him to come to his Quarters. Therefore desires my application to you for a Court Martial on his Conduct on that day, when the Opportunity shall offer. I am Sir &c.

TAYLOR PENNY

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

From Lieutenant George Tripp to Captain Taylor Penny

Marlborough at Sea 15th April 1782

Sir,

Lieut. Gardiner 2d Lieutenant of His Majesty's [ship] under under your Command having Yesterday on the Quarter deck of the Formidable aspersed my Character as an Officer accusing me of behaving in a Cowardly manner on the 12th of this Month when in Action with the French Fleet, I am therefore to request that you will be pleased to apply to the Commander in Chief for a Court Martial to enquire into my Conduct on that day, as

Lieutenant Gardiner has advanced that you called for me at two separate times calling me a Cowardly Scoundrel and desiring me to come to my Quarters; as I am convinced of the Commander in Chief's great humanity, I trust he will be pleased to grant the above request and that he will be pleased to let it take place by the earliest Opportunity. I am Sir &c.

GEORGE TRIPP 1ST LT.

To Taylor Penny

Commanding His Majesty's Ship, Marlborough

To the Commanding Officer of St. Lucia

Sent by the Triton

Sir,

Formidable &c. 15th April 1782

As it is necessary that the large Ship loaded with Masts should proceed to Jamaica in order to supply many Ships of the Fleet which may be in want thereof and as the Cork Convoy is hourly expected to arrive, I must desire that His Majesty's Ships Prudent and Fortunée take them under their protection, together with all such Victuallers and Trade as may be bound to Jamaica, and see them safe to Port Royal.

In all probability Rear Admiral Drake with a Squadron under his Command will soon join you in the mean time you will be attentive to every thing that passes at Martinique. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Command^r Officer at St. Lucia

To John Marr, Victualing Agent at St. Lucia

Sir,

Formidable at Sea 15th April 1782

By Letters received from Sir Peter Parker I find there is a very great Scarcity of Provisions at Jamaica. I must

therefore desire you will hasten with the Convoy a considerable quantity of every Species for the use of His Majesty's Fleet under my Command. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Jn^o Marr Esq^r

To Captain John Laforey, Commissioner of the Navy at the Leeward Islands

Formidable at Sea 17th April 1782

Sir,

Since Writing to you by the Triton so lately I have nothing further to inform you of at present but that having look'd into Basse Terre and St. Eustatius and finding none of the Enemy'd Ships there I am proceeding towards Jamaica in Quest of them.

I shall shortly take the Opportunity of writing you again by Mr. Drake whom I shall send back with a squadron of His Majesty's Ships if the Service permits and have the honour in the mean time to remain with great Regard Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Jn^o Laforey Esq^r

To Captain Thomas Shirley

Formidable &c. 18th April 1782

Sir,

As 'tis necessary the Commanding Officer should be at St. Lucia I must desire you will repair to Gros Islet Bay in that Island and from thence issue such Orders as you may think necessary for His Majesty's Service during the Absence of Rear Admiral Drake or any Senior Officer unless 'tis absolutely necessary for your absence in order to defend any other Island attack'd.

You are to keep a good look out upon Martinique and

all the Enemy's Motions and to take care that the Convoy under the Robust Sails at a proper time for Great Britain. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Shirley

From Captain William Truscott

Nonsuch at Sea April 18th 1782

Sir,

Lieut. Thos. Hitchcock second Lieutenant of His Majesty's Ship under my Command having at different times behaved with Contempt for me and my Orders, Neglecting his Duty in not keeping the Ship in her Station with the Admiral, when his Watch in the Night, particularly on the Nights of the 15th & 16th Instant Charging Mr. John Redhead the Mate with his coming in the Night to let me know he was asleep in his Watch, and telling the Midshipmen he did so, to raise a Disturbance in the Ship, and that I had told him Mr. Redhead did so. For which Charges I must beg you will be pleased to Order a Court Martial. I am Sir &c.

WM. TRUSCOTT

To Sir George B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

French Ships Captured By Sir Samuel Hood's Squadron

List of Ships of War Captured on the 19th April 1782 by a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under the Command of Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood Bart.

Ships names	Number of Guns	Number of Men
Caton	64	
Jason	64	609
L'Aimable	32	290
	12 Pounders	
Ceres	18	160

SAM: HOOD

Return of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ships Valiant and Magnificent on the 19th April 1782

Ships Names	Killed	Wounded	Killed and Wounded
Valiant	2	6	8
Magnificent	4	8	12

SAM: HOOD

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable at Sea 20th April 1782

Sir,

Since my last Dispatches of the 14th Instant sent by Lord Cranstoun in His Majesty's Ship Andromache I must desire you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordship's that the Fleet under my Command in their way to reconnoitre the Bays of Basseterre St. Christopher's and St. Eustatius and observe if the Enemy's Fleet had attempted to shelter themselves in those Bays, we were becalmed for three days under the Island of Guadaloupe in which time we were employed in repairing the Shatter'd Condition of the Ship's under my Command.

The Moment we had a Breeze I dispatched Frigates to St. Christopher's and St. Eustatius; in the latter Road instead of the Vast Crowd of Ships that used to be anchored there was only two small Schooners. At St. Christopher's none but Merchant Ships being by this Convinced, that the Enemy's defeated Fleet were gone to Leeward, I dispatched Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood (whose Division having been in the Rear on the day of Battle and received much less damage than the Van and Center) to proceed with all the Sail they could make to the West end of St. Domingo in hopes that he might pick up some of the Straggling, disabled Ships of the Enemy, and am now following myself with the remainder of the Fleet to join him off Cape Tiberoon.

It is with great Satisfaction I can acquaint their Lordship's that the Enemy's battering Cannon, Travelling Carriages, and Train of Artillery are in the Ships Captured, which are not only a loss to the Enemy but may be of the greatest Service in the Island of Jamaica.

Enclosed I have the Honor to send Duplicates of my Dispatches by the Andromache and have the Honor to be S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable &c. 21st April 1782.

Sir,

As the Letter you honor'd me with required consideration, and my Health not permitting me to give a direct answer thereto you must excuse me if I thought it necessary to take time to consider on a Request in which His Majesty's Service was so much concerned and wherein it behoves me to be extremely attentive.

It was entirely out of regard to yourself, and to shew my Personal attachment to you that I took you with me from St. Lucia on which Station it was intended you should have remained as Commanding Officer during my Absence, and to which Station it will be highly necessary you should return.

Such being the situation of Affairs and having well considered the great trust reposed in me, I can by no means consent that your Flag should be removed into a Three Deck Ship 'till my return from North America, and then only in case His Majesty's Service will admit thereof.

I must beg you will peruse the List of Admirals, you will find yourself the Youngest Admiral of Great Britain but One; in whatever Fleet you may serve you will be liable to be detached with a Squadron while I have the

Honor of having you under my Command, in all probability the detachment will be frequent and a Three Deck Ship improper, and in the Great Fleet that will shortly be under my Command there are besides myself Four Admirals superior to you in Rank. of course there can be no likelihood of your Commanding a Division in the Battle that may ensue.

For these reasons Sir, I think it necessary to acquaint you that however inclined I may be to shew my Regard for you it would be highly improper at present for me to Comply with your Request.

In regard to my making Officers, and preferring Sir Sam^l Hood's first Lieutenant to be Captain of a Fire Ship whose Commander I thought proper to make a Post Captain you must excuse me if I cannot help saying that I looked upon it as a particular favor conferred on you; when I proposed making your first Lieutenant a Master and Commander when a proper Vessel could be purchased, or you returned to St. Lucia and he appointed to the Brig I ordered to be purchased and called by the Islands Name, to which Brig as yet no Officers have been appointed.

I must likewise beg you will reflect how very unusual it has been for any Officer whatever to have been preferred but from the Commander in Chiefs own ship, from which all preferment should flow.

In all my long services I never knew a Rule to the contrary, and I myself am the only Commander in Chief that has deviated from that Rule, to which (for the future) I shall strictly adhere. I am Sir &c.

To Rear Adm^l Drake &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sir, Formidable &c. 22d April 1782

As there are upwards of Seven hundred Wounded Men in the Fleet I must desire you will please to give direc-

tions to the Agent of the Hospital that the necessary preparations may be made to be ready to receive them.

You will likewise please to give Notice to the Agent for Prisoners of War that he be ready to receive upwards of Four thousand Prisoners, as their continuance on board the Fleet will be very detrimental to His Majesty's Service.¹

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir P. Parker &c.

To Captain Thomas Dumaresq

Formidable at Sea 22d April 1782

Sir,

I expect when the Signal is made for your Ship to get into her Station in the Line of Battle, that you in future make all the Sail you possibly can for that purpose, agreeable to the first Article of the Additional Fighting Instructions. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Dumaresq

From Commodore Edmund Affleck

Bedford at Sea April 24th 1782

Sir,

I am this Instant honor'd with your Orders to put myself under the command of Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood for my further proceedings.

I rest in hope Sir on your arrival at Jamaica and finding from the Signal Victory you have gain'd over the

¹ [Marginal note in Admiral Rodney's handwriting:] P. S. totally neglected.

Enemy that all their hostile Intentions against that Island are frustrated, which I conclude you will find that I shall, as the Battle is over, soon Receive your Orders to return to the Security of New York where I shall be refitting the Bedford and whatever Ships you are pleased to send with me to wait your Commands on your arrival and I must inform you that tho' from the present spirit of service so urgent I have reported the Bedford fit her Mizen Mast is secur'd with Capston Bars only having nothing to fish it with and her Foremast a Fore Yard are fit only for a fair Weather Season. I am sorry I am so lame as to be unfit to wait upon you myself and have the Honor to be Sir Yours &c.

EDM: AFFLECK

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Commodore Edmund Affleck

Formidable at Sea the 25th April 1782

Sir,

I am this moment favor'd with your Letter [of April 24] and can only acquaint you that when the Publick Service will admit, You with part of the Fleet under my Command will return to North America at present there can be not a thought of it. by your having represented your Ship fit for Service, I concluded she was so, at present she must wait 'till the Ships who are in a much worse Condition return to the Fleet.

As I have ordered a Signal to be made for all Lieutenants that I may be acquainted with what Masts, Yards and Sails are wanting to repair the Fleet, You will please to give directions to your Captain to send an Account on board the Formidable that every thing may be prepared against the Arrival of the Bedford in Port Royal Harbour.

If there is an absolute necessity for the Bedford to go immediately into Port, Sir Samuel Hood will give orders

for your hoisting your Broad Pendant on board any Ship of your Division that may be most agreeable to you. As I think it necessary for His Majesty's Service that there should be three Divisions under the Command of Sir Samuel Hood. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Commodore Affleck &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable off Cape Tiberoon St. Domingo
26th April 1782

Sir,

Since my last dispatches of the 20th April by the Eurydice I am happy to Congratulate their Lordship's on the Capture of Two more Line of Battle Ships and Two Frigates taken by the Squadron I had detached under the Command of Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood and enclosed have the honor to send a List of the Ships taken and a Return of the Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ships that attacked them.

I am now with the Fleet off Cape Tiberoon and propose leaving Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood with Twenty five Sail of the Line or as many Ships as are in a Condition to keep the Sea to watch the Motions of the Enemy at Cape Francois and shall go myself with the Crippled Ships to Port Royal in order to hasten their refitting and to take care that no delay be made, and flatter myself I shall find that the Invincible has been hove down and by this time ready and in a condition to proceed with the Jamaica Squadron to reinforce the Fleet I shall leave under the Command of Sir Samuel Hood, that he may send such other Ships as may be in need of Repair into Port in order to their being refitted.

Their Lordship's may be assured that every dispatch possible shall be used that the Fleet may be again in full force and that nothing shall detain me in Port but the

absolute necessity of my being personally present in order to enforce their speedy equipment to consult with the Governor and Council of the Island relative to it's defence should it be attacked and to afford every assistance in my power.

Enclosed I send a Duplicates of my Dispatches by the Andromache and Eurydice, and have the Honor to be S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable off Port Royal Jamaica
28th April 1782

Sir,

I am this day honor'd with your Letter by Lieutenant Dawkins and have sent Orders for Captain Smith of the Endymion to proceed immediately and join Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, which I am to beg you will cause to be put in execution by her Sailing to Morrow Morning.

As there is one first, Two second Rates and other Line of Battle Ships much in want of Pilots to carry them into Port Royal, I must desire you will be pleased to order the Master Attendant to send Pilots off immediately to take charge of them.

I have the Honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir P: Parker
or the Commanding Officer at Port Royal

From Sir Gilbert Blane, Physician to the Fleet

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
29th April 1782

Sir,

As a great number of Men have been wounded in the late engagement with the Enemy and as the Scurvy begins to prevail in the very great squadron under your Command, it is my duty to represent to you certain means for the cure of these complaints & for preventing the farther encrease of Sickness in the Fleet.

As many of the Ships of War have been long absent from England, and as the great expenditure of Medicines and necessaries in the Climate, renders the Surgeons Supplies altogether unequal to the present necessity, especially as the Service requires that many of the Ships should keep the Sea with their Sick and Wounded on board, I beg leave to suggest that a Supply of Peruvian Bark would be extremely conducive and even absolutely necessary to the cure of the Wounded, and as fresh & vegetable diet is no less necessary for the same purpose as well as to cure and prevent Scurvy a Supply of Wine sugar rice and fruit as necessaries to the Sick and Wounded and of fresh meat to the Ship's Companies would be extremely salutary and seasonable at this time.

I beg leave to recommend these measures the more on this account that I have found from large and repeated experience that in this Climate Men recover much sooner and at much less expence to Government on board of their Ships than on shore at Hospitals provided they are supplied with proper medicines diet and Refreshments, which are the more necessary at present that the Hospital cannot contain all the Sick.

I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

Gil: Blane
Physician to the Fleet

From Captain James Wallace

Warrior, Port Royal 29th Ap^l 1782

Sir,

Lieutenant Augustus Market of His Majesty's Ship Warrior under my Command, not car[r]ying on his Duty with Alacrity as he ought, but frequently disputing with His Superior Officer, particularly on the 9th Instant, when the Fleet were getting under weigh, to pursue the French, when he refused to go forward to see the Head Sails trim'd, tho' ordered; that His Majesty's Service may not suffer by such behaviour I am to desire he may be tried at a Court Martial for the same. I am S^r &c.

JAS. WALLACE

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain John Linzee

Convert English Harbour April 29th 1782

Sir,

I take the first and only opportunity to acquaint You that on the 1st Instant at 6 A M I Weigh'd Anchor at Peters Island near Tortola road with a Pilot on board and stood out to Sea with His Majesty's Ship Santa Monica under my Command in Company with the Convert, Germaine and Experiment through the Common and General Channel from Tortola, with an intention to intercept the Enemy's Vessels that was daily passing Tortola, as well as to Block up the Passage of the round Rock which leads to Tortola, through which passage I did suppose the two French Frigates would endeavour to make their way that was said to be at St. Christopher's and intended for Tortola which I had the Honor to give

you an Account of by Letter of the 27th of last Month by His Majesty's arm'd Schooner Barbic.

But I am exceedingly concern'd to inform you at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 7 of the Morning I Weigh'd, when standing as near as possible after the Convert, and going about Six Knots with a great Sea that His Majesty's Ship Santa Monica struck four times very heavy and in the space of two Minutes she bulged on an unknown sunken Rock S. S. W. two Miles from the S. W. Point of Norman's Island and back'd off, and immediately made a great quantity of Water all the Cask in the Hold floating about, five Pumps and forty Bucketts were employed to free the Ship of the Water, but finding the Water to gain very fast and the Officers reporting to me that the Ship would go down, I therefore with their advice bore away for the nearest Harbour to save the people's lives and such Stores as I might be able, at $\frac{1}{4}$ before Nine A. M. I was Compel'd to run His Majesty's Ship ashore in $3\frac{1}{2}$ and four Fathoms Water in Crawl Bay in the Island of St. John's where she sunk with the greater part of her Main Deck under Water, at the time I grounded the Ship there was fifteen feet Water in her, and must have gone down before we could have got to the shore if we had been a quarter of a Mile further off. After I had got the Ship in it was the opinion of the Captains of the other Ships that was with me, and the Officers and Pilot of the Santa Monica that nothing could be done but saving the Stores that was above the Main Deck. I therefore without loss of time saved every thing that could be got at, it was impossible to save any part of the provisions or any Stores under the Decks, except four Cables, and three or four Sails.

The Rigging with Sails Yards, Boats, Anchors, Guns, and a great many small stores are saved, and all that could be put with the Officers and Ship's Company were, and are now in this Harbor on Board His Majesty's Ships Convert Germaine and Experiment; the Guns, Anchors, Cables, Tops, Mizen Mast, and some small stores are left at Tortola under the Charge of Edm^d Burke Esq^r

which he has given receipts for and will be delivered when sent for and I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

JOHN LINZEE

To Sir G: B: Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 30th April 1782

Sir,

The Success of His Majesty's arms having been attended by the Capture of a great number of Prisoners whose detention on board may be of the most fatal consequences to the Health of the Seamen, as well as preventing other attacks upon the Enemy by the detention of the Ships in Port,

I must press your Excellency that proper places for the Reception of the Prisoners may be appointed with all the dispatch possible, as so much depends upon the speedy Sailing of the Fleet under my Command. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Excellency Gen^l Campbell

Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood's Order to Captain the Honorable Thomas Cadogan

By Sir Samuel Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

You are hereby required and directed to take the Ships named in the Margin,¹ under your Command, whose Captains have my directions to follow your Orders; and proceed as fast [as] possible off Cape Francois on the Island of St. Domingo, and use your utmost endeavours

¹ Ulysses, Actæon and Belliqueux

to get intelligence of the Number and force of the Enemy's Ships at that Port, and having performed that Service with some degree of certainty; You will immediately dispatch the *Ulysses* to me, whose Commander is to look for me *North West* from Cape Donna Maria from Five to Fifteen Leagues from the Land, and continue with the other Ships, to watch the Enemy's Motions at the Cape; And upon receiving any Intelligence proper for me to know either by information, or your own observations you will send the *Actæon* with it, and continue to Cruize with the *Licorne* and *Belliqueux*; sending me word as often as you order a Ship to me, where you are with certainty to be joined by other Ships I may send to you.

You will be exceeding Cautious how you delay a Moment in getting off the Cape by *Chacing*, and guard such Captains against it, in the most pointed Terms, you may from Time to Time dispatch to me with Intelligence.

You will continue upon this Service till further Orders.

Given under my Hand on Board His Majesty's
Ship *Barfleur* at Sea 1st May 1782

SAM^L HOOD

To The Honourable Captⁿ Cadogan
Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Licorne*

By Command of the Rear Admiral
(for Mr. Hunt, James Henderson)

From Robert Benton, Ordnance Storekeeper

Office of Ordnance, Jamaica,
2d May 1782

Sir,

I beg leave to represent to you, that from the great number of His Majesty's Ships in Port Royal Harbour under your Command, requires numerous supplies of Ordnance Stores to Complete them for Sea; for which

Sir Geo. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Kings House 2d May 1782

Mr. Neville the Commissary General for Prisoners in this Island, has provided no Lodgings or accomodations for the French Officers who have been sent here; and who suffer great inconveniences on that account. I have repeatedly requested he would send a Deputy to Spanish town for that purpose, but at this hour there is no appearance of his Deputy, and about 50 Officers to be provided for in Quarters. I should be obliged to you in giving your orders with some effect on this business and that you would direct a Deputy Commissary to remain constantly in Spanish [town] to adjust all matters concerning these Officers.

I am D^r Sir &c.

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*To Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners of War in
Jamaica*

Formidable Port Royal Harbour,
3d May 1782

Sir,

By a Letter I have been this Instant honored with
from the Lieut. Governor, I am with astonishment in-

formed that you as Commissary General for Prisoners of this Island, have provided no Lodgings or Accomodations for Fifty of the French Officers who are now without Quarters, and suffer great Inconvenience on that account and that notwithstanding his repeated request to you to send a Deputy Commissary there, none such has made his appearance.

I must insist therefore that without the least delay a proper Deputy be sent by you, to remain constantly at Spanish town, in order to adjust matters relative to those Officers, and that there may be no longer room for Complaints of so just a nature to be made against you. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Thos. Neville Esq^r

*To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell, Lieutenant
Governor of Jamaica*

Formidable Port Royal Harbour
3d May 1782

Sir,

I have been honour'd with your Letter of Yesterday, complaining of the Inattention of the Commissary General for Prisoners of War towards the French Prisoners now at Spanish Town and have issued my Orders to him on that head in such a manner as I trust will Produce the desired effect. I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Honor the Lieut. Governor
Jamaica

by Mr. Padget

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable &c. 3d May 1782

Sir,

As the Marines belonging to the Ships in this Harbour are wanted on board to their Duty,

I must desire You will please to Order them to be relieved from the Forts they are doing Duty at, that they may return to their respective Ships, and in case of their being again wanted, they will be always ready to attend your Commands.

I am S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To His Honour the Lieut. Governor

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica, 3d May 1782

Sir,

Since my Letter of the 26th April acquainting their Lordship's of my being off Cape Tiberoon and that I should leave a strong Fleet under the Command of Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood to watch the Motions of the Combined Fleets at Cape Francois, You will please to acquaint them that I arrived in this Bay with such Ships as were in the most distressed Condition on the 29th of last Month. Since which every dispatch possible both day and night has been used towards refitting them as the nature of a Kings Dock Yard suffered to go to almost Total Ruin will admit and now I was surprized to find that no Repairs whatever had been done since I left it in the Year 1774. I was much more surprized to find that the Invincible had not been hove down agreeable to my request for that purpose, that she might have been ready

to have rejoined the Fleet which had certainly been the case had she not been kept to guard the Port afloat when Her Guns on the Shore would have been much more efficacious for that purpose. I have ordered her to be Careened with every dispatch possible and will take care it is speedily executed.

I have the pleasure to acquaint their Lordship's that the *Ville de Paris* of 104 Guns the *Glory* of 74, The *Hector* of 74, the *Cato* of 64 the *Jason* of 64, the *Ardent* of 64, the *Amiable* of 32 and the *Ceres* (which I shall send with this Express) are all safe arrived in this Harbour and hope their Lordships will approve of my having put them all in Commission and appointed proper Officers in order to their speedy equipment and propose sending home with the next Convoy (if possible) the *Cato* which has received little or no damage, the *Jason* and the *Ardent* who have all Wooden Bottoms and might receive considerable injury by their continuance in this Climate. The *Jason* is but 3 Years old and the *Cato* 4, both Built with Strong Timber at Toulon and are excellent Ships of their Rate. The *Glory* is Copper-Bottom'd I propose leaving her upon the Jamaica Station she having been reckoned the quickest Sailing Ship belonging to France. The *Hector* will take a longer time to Refit and the *Ville de Paris* I flatter myself will be in a Condition in a short time to proceed either with the Fleet or with the next Convoy to Great Britain.

Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker will proceed with the Trade bound to Great Britain before the 20th Instant with the *Sandwich*, the *Intrepid* and *Ajax*, the *Shrewsbury* having been found too bad to trust her across the Atlantic, till she has been hove down the *Russel* is likewise in a very bad Condition and unfit for Service and must be sent home the next Convoy which I propose shall Sail for Great Britain the middle of June and another Convoy the latter end of July agreeable to their Lordships Commands and the Request of the Chairman of the Committee of West India Merchants.

I cannot conclude this Letter without thinking it my

duty to acquaint their Lordship's that every thing belonging to the Naval department is in so ruinous a Condition and so extremely inconvenient that unless their Lordships will please to give directions to put things in a proper Order His Majesty's and the Publick Service must be extremely retarded and that briskness and activity so necessary towards defeating the designs of the Enemy greatly discouraged.

I must beg likewise to represent to their Lordship's how necessary it will be for all Officers belonging to the Naval department to reside at Port Royal. The Store-keeper residing at Kingston is extremely detrimental to His Majesty's Service and the occasion of a great loss of time, and all the Stores being deposited at Greenwich greatly retards the Refitting His Majesty's Ships and extremely dangerous to the Health of the Seamen as well as occasioning great desertions.

A Mast House erected at Port Royal where there is a sufficiency of Room will much accelerate the Publick Service and prevent much Sickness and Desertion.

Tis with Concern that I acquaint their Lordship's that the *Cæsar* of 74 Guns and looked upon as one of the best Ships belonging to the French Fleet was burnt the Night of the Action and upwards of Four hundred Men with a Lieut. and 50 English Seamen perished with her notwithstanding every assistance possible was given. This fatal Accident was owing to the extreme bad discipline of the French Seamen all of whom upon their Ships striking were guilty of every enormity and disobedience to their Officers.

By what I can learn from the Prisoners it was supposed to be the *Diadem* that Sunk in the Action, and I have reason to believe that in this great Success of His Majesty's Arms, the Enemy have lost in Killed, Wounded and Prisoners at least Fifteen thousand Men, in those we have taken the number amounts to Seven thousand nine hundred and Eighty.

Every attention has been paid to the Count de Grasse and his Officers, all of whom have reason to be satisfied

with the respect and treatment they meet with, and all of whom will be sent to Great Britain with the Convoy.

Enclosed I send for their Lordship's information (and wrote with my own hand as most Secret) the Tract I shall order Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker to take with his Convoy on his approach to Great Britain. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur at Sea 3d May 1782.

Sir

The State and Condition of the Masts and Yards of His Majesty's Ship Canada being such as to make her continuance at Sea, very Hazardous, I have ordered her to Port Royal; and so soon as I have the Honour of hearing from you, I shall send thither also, the Alfred, and Prothee, the former on account of Her numerous Sick, and having no Surgeons Mate on board, and the latter as she is short of Water;

I have the Honour to send you a Copy of my Letter to Admiral Vandruel, at Cape Francois, as well as a Copy of my order to Captain Cadogan, for Reconoitering that Port.

I have the Honour to be with Great Regard Sir

Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

Sam^l Hood

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

[Marginal note:] N. B. Received no Copy of a Letter to Admiral Vaudruel as mentioned in the above Letter

*From Admiral Rodney's Secretary to Mr. Coverdale,
Agent to the Contractor at Jamaica*

Formidable &c. 3d May 1782.

Sir,

I am Commanded by the Admiral to acquaint you that he is very much surprized and equally displeased to hear that the *Endymion's* Demand for Provision which he is informed has been made these two days is not yet comply'd with and that he insists on her being immediately compleated without a Moment's delay.

I am Sir &c.

WM. PAGETT

To Mr. Coverdale

*From Eliphalet Fitch, President of the Chamber of
Commerce of Jamaica*

Kingston May 4th 1782

Sir,

A Chamber of Commerce having been lately established in this Town, with a View to Collect the Sense of the Merchants and others interested in the Trade of the Island, Experience has shewn that many Advantages result from this Institution; and I hope, Sir, it will therefore be honoured with your Patronage.

It has been usual, thro' this Channel to Convey to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on this Station such Representations in this Respect, as were thought necessary to the Publick Welfare; and I now beg leave to submit to your Consideration that there will be near Forty Merchantmen ready to Sail on the 8th Instant from the North side Ports, with Intention to join the Convoy at Port Royal.

A Report prevailing that a Spanish Privateer hath lately taken Three Vessels off the West end, it may

prevent those above mentioned from Sailing, without the Protection of a Man of War, and as the King's Vessels lately order'd on that Service, are mostly returned, I beg leave, with the utmost Deference and Respect, to mention these Circumstances, leaving them to be decided on, as you shall please to direct.

I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

ELIPH^T FITCH

President of the Chamber of Commerce

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*To Eliphalet Fitch, President of the Chamber of
Commerce of Jamaica*

Formidable &c. 4th May 1782

Sir,

I am this Instant favored with the Representation of the Chamber of Commerce of Jamaica through your Hands and beg you will as President thereof please to assure them I shall readily pay all the attention in my power consistent with His Majesty's Service to whatever Information they may think necessary to impart to me, and that I shall immediately make such a Disposition of the Ships under my Command round the Island as I trust will secure the Trade of every part thereof from Insult or Interruption.

I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

To Eliph^t Fitch Esq^r P. C. Council Jamaica

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 5th May 1782

Sir,

Captain Burnett the oldest and most experienced Officer of the Fleet I have the honor to Command, and whose

Exertion in both Actions did honor to himself and his Country, being in a bad state of health, and this Climate never agreeing with him, it will be cruel in me if I suffered him to remain longer in the West Indies.

I therefore have charged him with my Dispatches to their Lordship's and must beg leave in the strongest manner to recommend him to their consideration for his long, Gallant & faithful Services.

I transmit for their Lordship's perusal the enclosed Addresses with which I have been honor'd and which I am requested to transmit to you. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Rear Admiral the Honorable Robert Digby

Formidable &c. 5th May 1782

Sir,

Since my Dispatches to you by the Hornett Sloop, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that on the 12th of April I had the good fortune to bring the French Fleet under the Command of the Count de Grasse to a General Battle which lasted with unremitting fury from 7 o'Clock in the Morning till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 in the Evening when the setting Sun put an end to the Contest and in which His Majesty's Arms were Crowned with Success by the Capture of the Count de Grasse in the Ville de Paris, and the other Ships named in the enclosed List. The Battle was long and Bloody, but never doubtful in my opinion.

Both Fleets have suffered considerably, but the loss of Men Providence has ordained shall be small on the English side in comparison to that of the French; whose whole Army consisting of Five thousand Five hundred Regular Troops were on board their Ships of War among which must have been a dreadful Carnage, And I may venture to say, that by this Victory the Enemy must

have lost in Killed, Wounded and Taken at least Fifteen thousand Men; their shatter'd Fleet are arrived at the Cape and blockaded by Twenty five Sail of the Line, at present under the Command of Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood, but I shall join him as soon as possible with the remainder of the Fleet.

The Spanish Fleet consisting of Fourteen Sail of the Line are likewise at the Cape, with their Army of Nine thousand Regular Troops all intended for the attack of Jamaica, which I flatter myself the late Success of His Majesty's Arms will put a stop to.

The number and force of the Enemy's Ships will oblige me to be very attentive to their Motions; more especially as the Conquest of Jamaica was their grand object, and to which it behoves me to be extremely attentive; but you may depend upon every assistance in my power to be sent to America, when the nature of the Publick Service will admit, and your Squadron (which have suffered much in the Action) are repaired.

The Prince George has lost her Foremast. The Royal Oak must have all new Masts and several other Ships are in the same Condition. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Digby &c. &c. &c.
America

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 5th May 1782

Sir,

Enclosed I send you my Dispatches for England which I must desire you will forward by His Majesty's Sloop Ceres agreeable to the enclosed Order. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Sir Sam^l Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*From James Ballinghall*The Address of James Ballinghall ¹

Ship Shrewsbury

May 5th 1782

To Sir George Bridges Rodney Bart. Knight of the Bath,
Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief &c.

Sir,

Your Humble Petitioner had the Honour to serve under your Command last Warr in His Majesty's Ships Deptford and Marlborough, Capt. John Holwall Esq: in both Ships I was before the Mast. But ever since the Peace I have always been in the Station of Mate and Master in the Merc^t Service 'till now, the first of Sept. Eighty one I had the misfortune to be taken then Mate of a Cardeel transporting Sick and Wounded men from James Island Virginia to my Lord Cornwallis army at York, the French Fleet then arriving of[f] Cape Henry made a prize of us. Sir, I was in the Ville De Paris Six Months and the Count De Gras or his inferior Officers suffer'd us to be plunder'd of all but the Shirt on our Backs money Watches &c. I was Exchanged after the Saige of St. Christopher's by Sir Samuel Hood by His Goodness I am Draughted on Board the Shrewsbury and made Mate of the Hold for which I am thankfull and much oblig'd to the Gentleman that gave it me But,

Sir, if it please your Honour and Goodness my Present Distress obliges me to apply to your Honour as I have no other friend in the Navy. I am now 52 Years of Age & fail'd in Constitution my family depending wholly upon my hand Labour I would humbly beg my Discharge or a Station in the Navy that would procure me Bread for life At your good time may it please your Honour to forgive my Boldness you will greatly Oblige Sir

Your most obed^t Hu^l Servant

JAS. BALLINGALL

¹ This letter is crossed out in the Letter-Book, without any explanatory note. Ed.

From John Marr, Agent Victualer at St. Lucia

Pigeon Island, St. Lucia May 6th 1782

Sir,

I receiv'd the Honor of your Letter of the 15th April last, directing me to forward as soon as possible a considerable Quantity of Provisions of every Specie to Jamaica, in which I shall not lose a Moments time I had previous to your Commands given Directions to take the small remains out of three Navy Victuallers and to load a fourth with the same, for the purpose of sending to your Fleet by the first Convoy that offers and which Ship, the Ottrenton, will be ready to sail in a few Days. We are in daily Expectation of the Arrival of the Cork Convoy, as two of them are arrived at the Carenage, and who report they left the Leander Captⁿ Shirley and a Frigate in a Gale of Wind on the 16th of last Month, but I am more inclined to think they seperated from the Convoy to run for a Market, as I have no advice of any Victuallers coming to me, except what may be expected on the Contractors Account: I am afraid the Provisions that I shall be enabled to forward to Jamaica, will be very inadequate to your Fleets Demand but be assured, Sir, shou'd I find after the Contract is expired which is the 1st of June at this, & the 5th July at Barbadoes and Antigua, that at all Events I will purchase and forward all the Provisions I can lay my Hands on & then apply to the Senior Officer here for a Convoy to protect them down to you.

No Wine Ships are yet arrived nor have I advice of any coming, a Circumstance, to imagine that none may be sent in the Manner intended, nor perhaps in any other way for the Contract, was not closed with the House of the Wine Merchants, who tender'd their Offers for that Purpose, which the Victualling Boards Letter, informed me of the Day before I sailed from England, and as I had not a Gallon of Spirits, in my Charge when your Fleet sail'd from hence, I have Purchased Rum, only in

small Quantities, part of which I send to Jamaica, and a small part, I keep here to answer such demands, as may be made, by the Kings Ships.

I am busily employed, in erecting a Cooperage, and hope on your Return, you will not disapprove of the Steps, I have taken, for I shall invariably pursue, such Steps, as appear to be for the essential good, of the Service, and at as little Expence to the Crown, as possible.

I have with the Assistance, of the Builder, & Store-keeper, most strictly and carefully audited, Mr. Paterson's Accounts, relative to the Hospitals, and Buildings, of this Island, and from a Mr. Barclay's Bill, a Man who was employed by Mr. Paterson, to carry on the said Works, we have cutt off near £1500 Sterling which Bill appeared to me to be a gross Imposition.

Captain Barkley of the Prudent, is very attentive, in every Instance, to forward the Kings Service, & shou'd he leave us as he much wants, to do, to join your Fleet, we shall lose an Officer of Merit, and one from whom by his remaining here, we might look for every help, and assistance in all Exigencies, that might present themselves.

I have the Honor to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

JOHN MARR

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 7th May 1782.

Sir,

Upon making enquiry agreeable to my Duty into the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in this Harbour, I find that the Diamond is in such good Repair & in so good a Condition for Service that it is impossible for me to suffer her to proceed to Great Britain with the Convoy as her Service is so essentially necessary in this part of the World.

If therefore you are desirous that Capt. Parker should attend you to England, I should be glad to oblige you by removing him into any of the Ships or Frigates going home. I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker &c. &c. &c.

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 7th May 1782

Sir,

As the loss of Men in the late Actions with the Enemy's Fleet has rendered it absolutely necessary that they should be in some measure replaced by Men taken from those Ships bound to Great Britain with the Convoy as far as I may judge consistent with his Majesty's Service and the protection of the said Convoy,

I must therefore Sir, acquaint you that I shall order the Captain of His Majesty's Ship the Sandwich (on which your Flag is at present Flying) to discharge from the Supernumerary list and the Ships Books every Person that may exceed the number of 600 People, including Officers, Petty Officers and Servants in that number which I think fully sufficient (Considering at this time the impossibility of raising Seamen in this Country sufficient to enable the Ships at present on this Station to do their duty) for the Sandwich to proceed with the Convoy to Great Britain.

And Whereas I think it absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service and in compliance with my Instructions that a General Muster may be made of the Men belonging to the Fleet under my Command that I may be enabled to make a just distribution without partiality,

I must desire that you will give directions to your Captain that proper and regular Muster Books be ready when I send my first Captain attended by two other Captains and the Clerk of the Checque to Muster the

Sandwich, and that no delay may be made in this necessary piece of Service, Your Captain having already received orders for that purpose. I am S^r &c.

To Sir Peter Parker &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Thomas French

Formidable &c. 7th May 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to give Notice that the Convoy with the Trade for Great Britain will sail from this Port on the 15th Instant. Such Ships as may not be then ready may take the Advantage of another Convoy which will Sail about the middle of June.

You will likewise please to signify that a Third Convoy shall sail in July and that it is at the earnest and particular Request of the Chairman of the Committee of West India Merchants that no delay be made in the Sailing of the respective Convoys.

I am S^r &c.

To The Hon^{ble} Thos. French Esq^r
Custos at Kingston &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable &c. 8th May 1782

Sir,

I must acquaint you that I found it necessary for His Majesty's Service to put the Pomona under the Command of Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

I am Sir &c.

To Rear Adm^l Graves

G. B. RODNEY

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur at Sea May 8th 1782

Sir,

I have the Honor to transmit the Sentences of Two Court Martials, held by your Order, and as the Nonsuch had but one Lieutenant I have appointed Mr. Samuel Codd, and Mr. John Somerville to act in that capacity in her 'till your pleasure is known, both have been at Sea a Dozen Year's and are very deserving Young Men.

I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

SAM: HOOD

To Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 8th May 1782

Sir,

Inclosed I transmit you an Order for assembling a Court Martial on the Trial of Lieutenant Augustus Market of His Majesty's Ship Warrior, and must desire you will please to assemble the said Court as soon as possible as the Warrior is under Sailing Orders.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Sir Peter Parker &c. &c. &c.

To Joseph Hunt, Sir Samuel Hood's Secretary

Formidable &c. 8th May 1782

Sir,

I have this moment received your Letter. Orders are given relative to the Powder in regard to removing the

Provisions &c. You will do in that what you think proper.
I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Joseph Hunt Esq^r

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur at Sea May 8th 1782

Sir

Having Received the Intelligence I have the Honour to send you by Captain Vashon of His Majesty's Ship Prince William last Night; I judged it expedient to divide the Force under my Command, for the greater chance of intercepting the Enemy's Ships, and in order to enable the respective Squadrons to keep the Sea on the Score of Water, 'till the 25th of this Month, I have been obliged to remove the Prisoners from the several Ships, to the Montagu, and Yarmouth; which from their defects are not in Condition to continue Cruizing, and, to direct their Commanders to make the best of their way to Port Royal. I have also the Honour to send for your information, the Orders I have given to Rear Admiral Drake, and Commodore Affleck, which I hope will meet your approbation; and to acquaint you that I shall take my stand with the remaining Ships *North* from *Cape Nicola* from Five to Ten Leagues from the Land. Captain Ford of the *Nymph* joined me Yesterday, who fell in with the *Duke de Burgoyne*, the French 84 Gun Ship, with part of Her Bowsprit gone, on the 2d Instant, Cape Donna Maria then bearing S^o E^t 7 or 8 Leagues; at which time he was Ten or Twelve Leagues to Windward of my Squadron; as I was several Days becalmed off the Navasa, on the 6th in the Evening he again saw her of[f] Cape Nichola, not above 4 Miles distant, with a Rear Admiral's Flag Flying. At 6 A M/ he spoke with the *Belliqueux*, *Licorne*, *Ulysses*, and *Acteon*, all of which gave Chace to the French Ship, but as She Steer'd

for the Channel within Fortuda, Captain Ford imagin's she would take shelter at Port a Paix; not a Ship or Frigate of any kind has joined me, since your Arrival at Port Royal, and I am sorry to say the Nymph is very short of Water. I lose not a moment in dispatching the Montagu & Yarmouth, that you may make any alteration in, or additions to the Arrangement, I have to the best of my Judgment made of the Ships under my Command:

I have the Honour to be with great Respect Sir
Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

SAM^L Hood

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart: &c. &c. &c.

P. S. The Frigates you Ordered to join me and which are now on the Service of Reconnoitering Cape Francois, came without your Additional Instructions, and I have not one to give either.

Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood's Order to Rear Admiral F. S. Drake

By Sir Samuel Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

Whereas I have received Intelligence that Four Sail of the Line of the defeated French Fleet, put into Curacoa, in a Crippled state on the 21st of last Month, and not finding the means of refitting there sailed again on the 2d Instant, supposed for Cape Francois; and as Intelligence has been Received by the same Channel, that Two Dutch 64 Gun Ships, and Two Frigates, with Sixty Four Merchant Ships, were ready to Sail on the 2d Instant.

You are hereby required and directed, to take the Ships Names in the Margin ¹ under your Command, whose Captains have my directions to follow your Orders, and

¹ Princessa, Marlborough, America, Nonsuch, P^{ce} William

proceed with them with all the haste you can off the Isle of Vache, on the South Side of St. Domingo; and Cruize at such a distance and situation from the said Island as shall appear to you best for intercepting any of the Enemy's Ships; You will continue upon this Service 'till the 25th of this Month and then repair to Port Royal Jamaica.

Given &c. &c. &c. at Sea 8th May 1782

To F. S. Drake &c. &c. &c.

By Command of the Rear Admiral
(for Mr. Hunt) Jas. Henderson

*Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood's Order to Commodore
Edmund Affleck*

By Sir Samuel Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

Whereas I have Received Intelligence that Four Sail of the Line of the Defeated French Fleet put into Curacoa, in a Crippled state, on the 21st of last Month and not finding the means of refitting there, Sailed again on the 2d Instant, supposed for Cape Francois, and as Intelligence has been Received by the same Channel, that Two Dutch 64 Gun Ships, and Two Frigates with Sixty Four Merchant Ships were ready to Sail on the 2d Instant,

You are hereby required and directed to take the Ships named in the Margin¹ under your Command whose Captains have my directions to follow your Orders, and proceed with them with all the haste you can, through the Mogange Passage, off the East end of the Island of St. Domingo; and Cruize at such distance from any part of the Island, as you may judge most likely for intercepting the Enemy's Ships.

¹ Bedford, Arrogant, Conqueror, Repulse, St. Albans, Anson

You are to continue upon this Service 'till the 25th of this Month and then Repair to Port Royal Jamaica.

Given &c. at Sea 8th May 1782

SAMUEL HOOD

To Edmund AHeek Esq^r Commodore &c. &c. &c.

By Command of the Admiral
(for Mr. Hunt) J^s Henderson

From Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sandwich Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
the 9th May 1782

Sir,

I have received your two Letters of the 7th Instant and your Order of the same date to proceed with the Convoy the 15th of this Month.

You are pleased to acquaint me that you cannot suffer the Diamond to proceed with the Convoy for Great Britain, because you find her on enquiry to be in a good Condition for Service but if I am desirous that Captain Parker should attend me to England, You should be glad to oblige me by removing him into any of the Ships or Frigates going home.

I am certainly desirous that the Diamond should be one of the next Convoy agreeable to the Arrangement I had made before your Arrival But I could not reconcile it to my Feelings to let Captain Parker remove into any Ship going home unless his Health required it.

I am Sir &c.

P. PARKER

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 10th May 1782

Sir,

I have been favor'd with your Letter of the 8th Instant by the Yarmouth & Montague Inclosing me the Sentences of two Court Martials, as likewise Copys of the Orders you have given to Rear Adm^l Drake, and Commodore Affleck, and the Intelligence from Curacao which I have before received and intended to have sent you a Copy and flatter myself some of their Ships will fall into our hands.

The Slow Progress we make here is very provoking, but I hurry them all I possibly can, as Rear Admiral Graves sails with a small Squadron to protect the North side of this Island, and likewise to reconnoitre the South side of Cuba from Cumberland Harbour to Saint Iago. I am in hopes in a few days after I shall be able to send Rear Admiral Rowley in the London with such Ships as can be got ready to take the Charge of the Squadron under your Command in order that the Barfleur, Namur, and such Ships as want refitting may come into Port Royal for that purpose. The Prothée shall join you as soon as possible and other Frigates as they can be got ready; but every thing goes on slowly here altho' I am upon the Spot and have not as yet put my foot on the Shore since I came into this Port.

I am impatient 'till I hear what Ships of the Enemy are at the Cape as the Sailing of the Convoy for Great Britain depends on the Intelligence I may receive from thence.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 10th May 1782

Sir,

I am favor'd with your Letters by the Canada Alfred & Prothee and am very glad you have sent to reconoitre the Cape as it is absolutely necessary I should be well informed of the Force the Enemy have assembled there. The Tract I propose the homeward bound Convoy shall take who are to Sail on the 15th Instant for Great Britain depends upon the early information You may send me of the Situation of affairs at Cape Francois, and Inclosed I have the Honor to send you such Intelligence as I have been able to procure relative to the Spanish Fleet, who I amagine must have been some time arrived at Cape Francois.

The refitting the Fleet here who have suffer'd much more in their Masts and Rigging than we at first imagined, is carried on with all the dispatch that a Kings Yard suffered to go to almost total ruin and without the Common necessarys will admit.

As your presence will be necessary to assist me in carrying on His Majesty's Service; I shall send Rear Admiral Rowley to take the Command of the Fleet employed in watching the motions of the Enemy during your's and my absence.

I am Sir &c.

To Rear Adm^l Sir Sam^l Hood. Bt. G. B. RODNEY

To the Contractor for Victualing at Jamaica

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica

11th May 1782

Sir,

The gross Neglect that you have been guilty of since my arrival in this Port, with the Fleet under my Com-

mand, in not paying the least attention to the demands made for Provisions will require my most serious investigation, and unless immediately redress'd will oblige me to inquire into the reason of such inattention to His Majesty's Service.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Contractor for Victualling
His Majesty Navy, Jamaica

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable in Port Royal &c.

11th May 1782

Sir,

I am to inform you that in consequence of the pressing application of the Chamber of Commerce and the Island in General I must desire you will please to postpone the Sailing of the Convoy for Great Britain, 'till Sunday the 19th Instant.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir P. Parker &c. &c. &c.

From Captain the Honorable William Cornwallis

Canada Port Royal Harbour Jamaica

11th May 1782

Sir,

Where the Shot have struck the Hull of His Majesty's Ship Canada under my Command, she has in general appear'd to be rotten. She has been built Seventeen Years and by what I could learn before we left England, has only had the outside of Her patched up about four Years

ago for Channel Service. From these circumstances there is every reason to believe the Ship is in very bad condition altho' she does not at present Leak. I should therefore wish that you would be pleased to order her to be inspected into, for I think it is a pity she should be suffer'd to go to total decay as I think she is one of the best constructed Seventy four Gun Ships that ever was built in England.

I am Sir &c.

H. [*sic* for W.] CORNWALLIS

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Captain the Honorable William Cornwallis

Formidable &c. 11th May 1782

Sir,

I have this moment received your Letter and am exceeding sorry to hear the Canada is in so bad a Condition.

I have in consequence thereof order'd her to be Survey'd.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Cornwallis

From Four Captains

Port Royal May 12th 1782

Sir,

The Liberty of this Address We flatter ourselves will plead its Excuse from our present situation in Consequence of the Surrender of His Majesty's Ships at Demerary and your protection in facilitating our Exchange (that a Court Martial on us may take place) is

an Event most ardently wish'd in Expectation of an Honourable Acquital from a Consciousness of having discharged our Duty as Officers and faithful Subjects.

May We be permitted to observe that while We remain in this uncertain State, the Publick is deprived of our future Services and ourselves of further Advancement in the Service in which We have the Honor to serve added to a great Expence, more than our Fortunes will admit of. These Considerations We cherish the Idea, will act as a powerful Advocate in our Cause on a generous mind like your's.

We have the Honor to be With the highest Respect
S^r &c.

WM. TAHOURDIN
FRANCIS PENDER
LAW: GRÆME
CHRISTMAS PAUL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Five Captains

Formidable &c. 12th May 1782

Gentlemen,

I must now acquaint you that I have received your Letter of Yesterday's date and my Duty obliges me to give you notice, that as His Majesty's Service will now admit of your Conduct being enquired into relative to the giving up to the Enemy the Colonies of Esquebo and Demarara, as likewise of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your Command,

I must now therefore acquaint you that the Charge against you, is for not defending the Colonies and giving the Ships and Vessels under your respective Commands to the Enemy without defending them. That your Trials will come on when Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood arrives in this Port which will be very shortly. You will therefore prepare for your Defense, and let me know if there

are any Evidences you could wish to appear, that are now in the Fleet.

I am Gent. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

P. S. I shall endeavor to get your Exchange that there may be no delay in the Enquiry relative to your Conduct.

To the Captains Tahourdin, Pender, Græme, Paul & Brisbane

*To Eliphalet Fitch, President of the Chamber of
Commerce of Jamaica*

Formidable &c. 12th May 1782

Sir,

Late last night I was honor'd with your Letter of Yesterday desiring that the Sailing of the Convoy might be postponed to the 25th Instant.

As the Request militates against the repeated desire of the Chairman of the Committee of Merchants trading to the West Indies of which I have had repeated notice, and the strictest orders to comply therewith, you must excuse me if situated as I am and charg'd with the Protection of the whole Trade of all the West Indies, if I always persist in Convoys Sailing on the day appointed which I have never deviated from since I have been honor'd with the different Commands in the West Indies and which I shall always persist in.

The Trade in general being my particular Object not that of Individuals, You must therefore excuse me if I cannot comply with the request made me, more particularly as another Convoy shall sail on the 15th of June next for Great Britain, and the latter Convoy between the 25th & 31st of July or as may be most convenient to the Commerce of the Island.

I must likewise acquaint you that as I have order'd an Admiral with a Considerable Squadron for the Pro-

tection of the North side, as likewise another Squadron for the protection of the South, the Commanders of each have my Orders not only to Protect the Commerce and the Coast but to Convoy such Ships as may be loaded to the general place of Rendezvous, of which you will please to give Notice to your different Correspondents for that purpose. I must Sir conclude with assuring you I shall be always ready to shew every attention in my power to watch the Commerce of Great Britain, but it behoves me to pay particular attention to the Commerce in General by strictly adhering to the time appointed for their Convoy's Sailing which for the future I shall strictly adhere to, but on consideration of the situation the Island has lately been in I shall direct Vice Admiral Sir P. Parker who was to have Sail'd on Wednesday next to defer his Sailing to Sunday the 19th Instant.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Eliph^t Fitch Pres^t of the Chamber Com:

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 13th May 1782

Sir,

By His Majesty's Ship Princess Caroline I have sent a Quantity of Wine Sugar and Coffee for the use of the Sick and Wounded Men yet remaining on board the Ships which His Majesty's Service has not permitted to come into Port which you will please to cause to be distributed among them in such manner as from the particular exigency of each you shall think proper.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bt. &c. &c. &c.

*From Lieutenant Thomas Walbeoff, Agent for Transports
at Kingston, Jamaica*

Kingston May 13th 1782

Sir,

In a letter of the 9th Instant I stated to Sir Charles Douglass the Condition of the Transports under my direction, now fitting for their Voyage to Europe. I must now beg leave to have the Honor of troubling Your Excellency on the same Subject. the Agent for the Contractor for supplying His Majesty's Ship on this Station had Sir Peter Parker's order dated the 20th of last April, to supply Water Casks for the Ship destin'd to take Home invalids from His Majesty's Naval Hospital at this Port. Yesterday She could only be supplied with forty Casks, the efforts of the Commissary for Prisoners, have been so unsuccessful that he has not above Two hundred Whereas there ought to be at least Six hundred Casks therefore Sir, I much fear the Transports will not be ready to Sail the time appointed for the Fleet.

I am Sir &c.

T: WALLBEOFF

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain the Honorable William Cornwallis

Canada, Port Royal Harbor, Jamaica
May 16, 1782

Sir,

As I believe the report of the State of the Canada does not at all agree with her defects, which I take the liberty of enclosing, and is very diferent from the opinion Mr. Bickenson the Carpenter of the Ville de Paris

(who was the only person that constantly attended the examination) gave me of her State after the Survey. Mr. Innis the Builder, told me before the Survey that he knew the Ship very well, that she was seventeen Years old, he was at Chatham when she was brought up there four or five Years ago, to get a repair, which however she did not get, and that he knew her frame must be bad, but the Moment the Survey was ordered, he seem'd determined to have her reported in the Manner she has been, the Survey has therefore satisfied me of what the Builder is capable of performing but not at all freed me of my doubts of the Capacity of the Ship.

An Account similar to the enclosed was taken by Mr. Bickenson & shewed to the Builder which he refused to look at, what methods he took to make him Sign the report I do not know.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

W. CORNWALLIS

An Account¹ of the defects of His Majesty's Ship Canada, as appeared by Survey, in Boring different parts of the said ship on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May 1782

Starboard Side

The Fashion piece, Defective and Bored rotten 8 Inches in from outside of Plank.

The Port Timbers of the 13th Port, (from fore) appears by Boring rotten and Decayed 11 Inches in from out side of the Plank.

The foot of the fore port Timber, 9th port upper deck, rotten and the whale decayed.

The foot of the port Timber aft, side 7th port upper deck, decayed.

The 4th Futtock and top timber, (fore side 6th port lower deck) and whale rotten.

¹ This account is crossed out, without any explanatory note. Ed.

The port Timber at the 5th port and Timber the Fore side, Decayed and rotten.

The 2d Shift lower strake of whale, and Knuckle Timber, and timber aft side decayed and Rotten. The whale and timber next the port timber aft side 2d port Rotten.

Larboard Side

The port Timbers of the 2d, 4th & 5th ports from aft Lower deck, appears (by boring) decayed and rotten.

The 4th Futtock and Black Streak between the 7th & 8th ports from aft, appears decayed and rotten.

The 6th & 7th port timbers from aft and the after port timber of the 8th port from D° Decayed and rotten.

The fore port Timber of the 6th port from fore & upper Streak of whale decay'd & rotten.

The fore port Timber and Lower piece of whale at the 5th port from fore, rotten & decayed.

The after port Timber of the 4th port from fore appears decayed and rotten.

One Timber between 6th & 7th and Timber aft side the port Timber between 4th & 5th ports, decayed & rotten.

The Fort port Timber of the 3d port from fore and four port Timber of 2d port decayed & rotten.

The upper fore piece of wale appeared by boring rotten.

The Knuckle Timber at the heel, bores rotten, and the upper part defective, and Sprung at the Knuckle.

The 1st, 3d & 4th Hawse piece appeared (by boring) decayed and rotten.

Starboard Side

in wake of the Spirkiting with in Board

The Fore Timber 5th port and Timber next to it bores rotten and decayed.

The after timber of the 8th port, and the Fore Timber of the 13th rotten.

The Lower Gun deck Clamps, works much and Draws from their respective Scarphs, at Sea, the top riders, Standards & Hanging Knees forsakes the side when the Ship is at Sea, & to all appearance is a Weak Ship, & shou'd undergo a Repair.

HENRY ATWILL Carp^r

Canada Port Royal Harbour,
16 May 1782

*To Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners of War in
Jamaica*

Formidable &c. 16th May 1782

Sir,

You mentioned something to me Yesterday of your intention of going to England.

It is impossible for me to consent that a Commissary should be absent at this important moment there being so many Prisoners on the Island and your Presence here being so very necessary.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Thos. Neville Esq^r

To Captain the Honorable William Cornwallis

Formidable &c. 16th May 1782

Sir,

I have received your Letter of this date relative to the Survey on His Majesty's Ship Canada under your Command and shall give Orders for the same being inquired into.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Hon^{ble} Captⁿ Cornwallis

*From Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at
Jamaica*

Greenwich Jamaica, 16th May 1782

Sir,

Having been under the necessity, from the very great encrease of business, at this Port, since the arrival of the Fleet under your Command, to employ four additional Clerks, to the Establishment, directed by the Navy Board, to attend to the receipts and Issues of His Majesty's Stores, in the different Storehouses, at Greenwich: and to keep the Storekeepers Accounts from falling in Arrear,

I have to entreat, that you will be pleased, to grant me, an Order to enter four Additional Clerks, to the usual Establishment, at the Rate of £70 Sterling & Annum, from the 1st Instant, and to continue during the time the Necessity for such Aid shall exist.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

L. R. ALLEN

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable &c. 16th May 1782

Sir,

I desire you will please to Order Captain Vashon in the Prince William to join me without loss of time in Port Royal Bay, and as you will be wanted to return to your Station to Windward, that you will likewise hasten to Join me in this Bay to compleat your Water and Provision.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake

To Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at Jamaica

Formidable &c. 17th May 1782

Sir,

Having been just inform'd that there is at the King's victualling Store at Kingston a number of return'd Staves and Iron Hoops, of which no Account has been given me and which are much wanted,

I desire you will immediately send me an Account that the same may be appropriated to the Publick Service.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To [blank] ¹

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

[Marginal note in Rodney's handwriting:] Original went by the Pack^t the 19th of May & Duplicates of my Letters of the 26th of Ap^l & 3d of May.

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

Since my last of the 3d Instant by the Swallow Packet I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordship's that every dispatch possible has been made in Refitting the Fleet which have received much more Damage in their Masts Hulls and Rigging than was first imagined

It is impossible for me not to represent to their Lordship's that by the Gros Neglect and Inattention of not keeping His Majesty's Yard in this Port in proper Repair it has proved the greatest detriment to His Majesty's Service and prevented that speedy Requisition so very necessary at this Critical moment, and to which my mind as well as my Duty will ever Stimulate me to hasten.

¹ In volume 5 of the Rodney MSS. in the Public Record Office, London, the copy of this letter is addressed: "To The Storekeeper."

The great number of Masts, that have been render'd unserviceable by the late Action will diminish the Stores in this Port, but foreseeing the Consequences of a Battle with the Enemy I had order'd the largest Store Ship from Saint Lucia to proceed with the first Convoy to Jamaica where I hourly expect her

The very great difficulty in getting out the Condemn'd Masts and supplying their place with new, has been so very apparent and detrimental to His Majesty's Service that I have been under the necessity of ordering a very large Spanish Ship of near a Thousand Ton which ought long since to have been converted into a Hulk a Prison Ship or a Convalescent Ship to be purchased for His Majesty's Service and have given Orders for her being so Converted accordingly which I hope their Lordship's will approve as I can have no view whatever in the Purchases, but for His Majesty's and the Publick Service.

The Hospital at this Port is calculated only for Three hundred Sick not the least addition having been made since I left it in the year 1774, nor the least attention paid towards it's Increase of Sick notwithstanding a Seven Years War or so much as a Convalescent Ship for Recovered Men.

The gross neglect and Inattention of the Contractor for victualling His Majesty's Fleet in this Port has been such as requires the Severest Reprehensions, even since my Arrival in this Port, the Neglect has been so gross, and my frequent reprehensions so many, notwithstanding which the Provisions have been demanded for Ships of the Squadron lately under the Command of Vice Admiral Sir P. Parker, who were order'd to go on immediate Service for the Defence of the Island, more than a Fortnight has elapsed, since the demand for Provisions has been made, tho' the Agent himself inform'd me, he had sufficient quantity of Provisions in Store, none as yet have been sent on board, and I have been under the necessity of taking it from the Ships I brought with me from Windward.

When I left this Port in the Year 1774 by my Order

Buoys had been placed upon all the Shoals coming in and going out of this Port, as likewise upon the Shoals in the Harbour leading to Rock Fort, to which place a first Rate without danger might have approached and compleated her Water within Twenty four hours. On my leaving this Station I left particular Orders to keep the said Buoys in repair notwithstanding which the whole have been suffer'd to go to Total decay without replacing them to the great detriment of His Majesty's Ships several of which have been run on shore for the want of those necessary marks and particularly the Princess Royal & Sandwich on their Arrival in this Port.

The Master Attendant in this Port has neglected to secure a sufficient number of Pilots, and it is with difficulty by such Neglect that His Majesty's Ships can be conducted with Safety into this Port, or to the Watering place at Rock Fort which greatly delays the Publick Service.

I have given the Strictest Orders to the Master Attendant that he keeps for the future a sufficient number of Pilots on board the Hulk for this necessary Service. In short every thing relative to His Majesty's Dock Yard here, appears to me as if design'd to go to Ruin; and that they had not the least Idea that the Nation had the Misfortune of being engaged in War

I have roused them to a sense of their Duty and while I remain here will take care that they perform it

Their Lordship's will do me justice and I am sure are convinced that I have always been unwilling to make Complaints, but such was the situation of His Majesty's Naval affairs in this Island and the negligence of every department belonging thereto, that I should not have done my Duty to His Majesty and the Publick without making this Report to them, who I am sure must have been totally ignorant of the real situation of Affairs here.

I have no view whatever in making this Report but my Publick Duty, and let His Majesty's Service carry me to any part of the World where it is my Duty to go, their Lordship's shall always have from me a true

and faithful report relative to Naval Affairs, regardless of the Resentment of any Person who may be concerned.

I cannot conclude this Letter without acquainting their Lordships that by the great Success of His Majesty's Arms, the greatest difficulty is found in securing the Prisoners of War, the Place appointed for that Service being capable of holding only 700 Men, the Preservation of the Health of the Seamen under my Command upon which the Success of His Majesty's Fleet depends, obliged me to land without delay near Five Thousand Prisoners of War. Complaints have been made from the Inhabitants of their numbers, my Answer has been they must find proper places for their reception 'till such time as prison Ships can be provided or an Exchange be made.

As upwards of Two thousand Troops of the first Regiments belonging to France were taken in the Ships we Captured I have order'd the Ships bound to Great Britain to receive on board a proper proportion to each Ship, and shall send all their Land and Sea Officers home in the First Convoy and a like proportion of the Soldiers in the Convoy that shall Sail the 18th of June next, and have likewise given directions that each Master of a Merchant Ship bound to Great Britain shall receive on board as many as he can take without indangering their Ships, by which means care will be taken that not one Single French Soldier shall remain in the Island of Jamaica

Many of the French Officers have been very pressing with me for leave to go St. Domingo or Martinique. I have given them the same answer the Marquiss de Bouillé gave upon taking the Troops at St. Christophers, Viz^t Not one Officer or Soldier shall be exchanged in the West Indies, neither would it be proper, as these very Officers were in the highest Confidence with the Marquis De Bouillé and on whom He mostly depended for Success in his Enterprizes

I will therefore take care that they twice Cross the Atlantic before they again Exert themselves against His

Majesty's Dominions in these Seas, which determination I hope will meet with their Lordship's Approbation.

Sir Peter Parker in the Sandwich with the Ajax, Intrepid, Lowestoffe and Pomona proceed with the Convoy to Britain tomorrow Count de Grasse with his Suite are embark'd in the Sandwich, the other Officers belonging to their Fleet and Army are divided among the other Ships of War, and I hope by the next Convoy the whole of the French Ships lately Captur'd will be in a Condition to proceed for Great Britain.

I have the Honor to be Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

Since my Letters of this day's date the Ajax had proved so extreamly leaky as not to admit of her Crossing the Atlantic without being Hove down, or in some measure if possible Repair'd.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

[Marginal note in Rodney's handwriting:] Duplicates of this & of the two former went by the Sandwich as also the state & Condition of the Fleet.

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

Since my Letter of the 3d Instant by the Packet I have received undoubted Intelligence that four Sail of

the Enemy's Ships as mentioned in the Margin ¹ have put into the Island Curacoa in a very Shatter'd Condition, two of them run on shore on that Island, and were not got off without considerable damage, and at the Expence of all their Cannon, another of their Line of Battle Ships is lost on the Rock of Avis, and 'tis reported from the Island of St. Thomas's that another was burnt by Accident on the Coast of Porta Rico.

As the Dutch have at Curacoa a 64 Gun Ship a 50 Gun Ship and two Frigates, exclusive of a Hundred and Thirty Sail of Merchant Ships ready to Sail for Europe, a Squadron under the Command of Commodore Affleck is station'd off the East end of St. Domingo, in order to intercept the four Sail of French Men of War, and the Dutch Ships of War with their Convoy should they attempt to pass to Cape Francois through the Monah Passage.

Rear Admiral Drake with a Squadron is off the Isle of Vache on the South Side of St. Domingo to intercept the French Ships of War should they attempt to pass on that side to the Cape and Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood with the Ships of His Squadron that are fit to keep the Sea Watches the Motions of the Enemy off Cape Francois. Rear Admiral Rowley sails tomorrow in the London with such Ships as are ready to take the Command and Reinforce the Squadron under Sir Samuel Hood during my continuance in Port to hasten the Repairs of the Ships that have suffer'd in the late Action which I find absolutely necessary as great delay would be made in their Equipment if I did not give my constant and personal Attendance

Their Lordship's may depend upon it that not a moment shall be lost in putting the Fleet under my Command in a Condition to Repeat the Blow that has already been given to the Enemy.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

¹ Marsellois, L'Eveill  , Le Pluton, L'Hercule

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Sir, Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

His Majesty's Ship Santa Monica Captain John Linzee having been lost off Tortola on the 1st of April last and he together with the Pilot having been Tried for the same at Antigua, I herewith transmit the Sentence and Minutes of the Court Martial together with two Certificates relative thereto for their Lordship's inspection.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Major General John Dalling, Governor of Jamaica

Sir, Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

I must desire that Your Excellency will please to give Notice that another Convoy will certainly sail for Great Britain on Monday the 24th June next. I am Sir &c.

His Excellency Gen^l Dalling

G. B. RODNEY

To Thomas French

Sir, Formidable &c. 18th May 1782.

I must desire that Your Excellency will please to give Notice to the Merchants and others concerned that another Convoy will certainly Sail for Great Britain on Monday the 24th of June next.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Hon^{ble} Thos. French, Custos

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

Lieutenant David McDowall a very promising young Officer having had the Misfortune to loose his Hand in the late Action and Northern Climate being presented as essential to his Recovery I have charged him with my Dispatches to their Lordship's and cannot help on the occasion recommending him to their Protection of which I believe him highly deserving.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

The Endeavour being ordered on Service from whom I depend on some very particular Intelligence; I have therefore ordered the Alert Brig to attend you for the purpose of taking out the Pilots in His Majesty's Ships under your Command. It is impossible for me to spare any Line of Battle Ships in addition to the Convoy while by the best Intelligence I have been able to procure that the Combin'd Fleets are in great Force at Cape Francois.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker &c. &c. &c.

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

Tis with concern I must acquaint you that the Ajax has upon Examination prov'd to be so extreamly leaky as not admit of crossing the Atlantic.

I have therefore order'd the Russel in her place which will be ready by to morrow Night when I shall immediately order her to follow you unless you may think it necessary to remain for her. I have likewise order'd the Prothee and the Alert to attend you through the Gulph and then to follow the secret Orders with which they are charged.

I am Sir

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir P. Parker &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782.

Sir,

The Ajax having been found so extreamly bad as not to permit of her going to Great Britain with the Convoy, I must inform you that I have order'd the Prothée to attend Vice Admiral Parker with the Convoy through the Gulph & afterwards to join the Squadron under your Command.

I must likewise acquaint you that the Pr^{ss} Caroline has on board a Quantity of Wine & Refreshments for the Use of the Sick & Wounded on board the Squadron under the Command of Sir Sam^l Hood which I must desire you will please to order to be distributed for their Use. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Rowley &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Sir,

The Bearer Samuel Bell a Marine on board the Sandwich having in the Action of the 17th of April 1780 got ruptured and the then Surgeon of His Majesty's said Ship having left her soon after and Captain Young dying the poor Man by that means miss'd obtaining a smart Ticket.

Give me leave therefore to recommend him as an object for Greenwich Hospital the only Recompence that can be now made him for his Misfortune, and of which from his Character I am told he is deserving. I am with great Regard, S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To the Commissioners of the Victualing

Formidable &c. 18th May 1782

Gentlemen,

Having last Year at the Capture of St. Eustatius order'd a Quantity of Teneriffe Prize Wine to be purchased for the Use of the Squadron under my Command from the Agents at the low Price of Two Shillings Sterling a Gallon which was served out. Among the other Ships Forty eight Pipes to the Intrepid the Purser of which Ship (having since quitted her) has refused to sign Receipts which in the Hurry of the then Service was omitted to be done, under the Pretence of it being deficient in Quantity.

I must therefore desire you will please to order the said Wine to be charged against him at the above Price of 2 s. Sterling a Gallon for 48 Pipes at 120 Gallons each, being the Quantity they were taken at on board

all the other Ships the Pipes having been all fill'd up by my Order on the delivery and received on board without any objection thereto. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Comm^{rs} for Victualling

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 19th May 1782

Sir,

As the Russel appointed to supply the Place of the Ajax and the Prothee intended to accompany you thro' the Gulph, with the Remainder of the Convoy cannot be ready after all the Exertions I have been making under two days,

I leave it to you either to pursue your Voyage with the Ships and Convoy already with you, or to wait that time at Bluefields for them.

I beg the favor of your immediate answer and have the Honor to be with great Regard S^r &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Peter Parker &c. &c. &c.

From Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Sandwich Off Port Royal
at $\frac{1}{4}$ after 9 o'Clock at Night
19th May 1782

Sir,

I have just now received your Letter acquainting me that the Russel which was appointed to supply the place of the Ajax and the Prothee intended to accompany me through the Gulph with the remainder of the Convoy cannot be ready after all your exertions under two days,

and leaving it to my Option either to pursue my voyage with the Ships and Convoy already with me or to wait that time at Bluefields for them.

In return I have the honor to Inform you that for some very apparent reasons I shall wait for the Russel and Prothee at Bluefields.

Captain Windsor having represented to me that in weighing this Morning he had the misfortune to lose his Best Bower Anchor from the Cable breaking short off close to the Clinch by which accident he is reduced to One Bower Anchor, the spare one being lost before he had the Command of the Lowestoffe and his Sheet Anchor being supplied the Fortunée agreeable to your Order

The distress of the Lowestoffe is such that I must request you will be pleased to order a Bower Anchor to be sent to her.

I have the Honor to be S^r &c.

P. PARKER

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To William Forfar, Master Attendant at Jamaica

Formidable &c. 21st May 1782

Sir,

I must desire that you will immediately give me your reasons, for your Absenting Yourself from your Duty, and not taking care that Buoys or Boats with Flags were placed on the Shoal off the Point and the Achilles Rock, by which Neglect His Majesty's Fleet were in danger of Running on shore. I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Mr. Forfar Master Attendant

To John Willis, Agent Victualer at Kingston, Jamaica

Formidable &c. 21st May 1782

Sir

It is my directions that you immediately cause to be set up into Water Casks, all the Staves that can be made fit for that purpose which are in Your Charge at the Victualling Office; which you are to Supply as demanded by His Majesty's Ship under my Command: And if the Quantity of these Staves are not sufficient, You are to purchase as many as will do, hiring such numbers of Extra Coopers as there may be a want of in Your Execution of this Service.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Agent Victualler
Kingston

To the Commissioners of the Victualing

Sent by the Russel

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica
21st May 1782

Gentlemen

The Hospital at this place not being large enough to accommodate all the Sick, and Wounded of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels now under my Command, and it being highly necessary that they should have every Refreshment and Relief which this Island can afford, I acquaint you of my having appointed Mr. William Cock Purser of His Majesty's Ship Formidable to purchase Fresh Beef and other Refreshments for their use, to be supplied and served out to them Daily, as may be prescribed by the Physician of the Fleet, the same having been refused to be undertaken by the Contractor for Fresh Beef here, and he is empowered by me [to]

draw Bills on your Board for the amount of his Expences, in the performance of this Business; Transmitting to you at the close thereof, the proper Vouchers to clear his Impress on the same.

I am Gentlemen &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

The Commissioners of His Majesty's Victualling

To Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker

Formidable &c. 22d May 1782

Sir,

As the late Captain of the Ceres is a Nephew of Adm^l Vaudrieul who is desirous of having him with him, I must desire you will please to send him back by His Majesty's Sloop which brings you this; that I may send him to Cape Francois in a Flag of Truce.

I am Sir &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir P: Parker Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable &c. 22d May 1782

Sir,

I have received both your letters of the 20th and 21st and on perusing your orders, I find that you was directed to Cruize between the Navaser and Cape Francois. I had not the least Idea of your keeping near the East end of Jamaica, the whole intention being that you should not Cruize to Windward of the Cape Francois which might give the Enemy an opportunity of slipping between you and Jamaica which I would by all means avoid, more especially I am now perfectly informed of

the Enemys whole force at the Cape, as soon as possible I shall hasten out every Ship as they can be got ready, to join you, the Alcide, Fame and the Centaur will be ready in a few Days and several others by the latter end of next Week

I am Sir &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Rear Admiral Rowley

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Spanishtown 22d May 1782

Sir

The Number of Prisoners of War has of late so gratefully increased, that the Buildings rented by General Dalling at £500 Currency Pr. Annum for their Accommodation, are actually insufficient to contain those already sent on Shore from His Majesty's Fleet; by which, evils of the worst tendency are likely to take place; If you have no objection to the contrary, I shall direct the Commissary for Prisoners of War, to construct without loss of time, comfortable Shades round the Prison Yard, fit with the presant appartments, to contain at least Fifteen Hundred Men, taking care previously, to have a plan and Estimate of the same made out for that purpose.

And whereas Government agreeable to the Lease settled by Genneral Dalling, is obliged to keep, maintain, and leave the Premises in good and Tenantable Condition, and has already not only expended large Sums of Money, to render the Prisons secure, but will also from the presant unavoidable Necessity still lay out more to accommodate the unhappy Multitude with such shelter from the Weather as good Policy and Humanity requires; I should think it greatly for the Interest of the Crown, at once to purchase the property, and Reap the benefits of all those Improvements. I am led to this Idea, as I understand the Buildings can be had on the

reasonable Terms of £3,500 Currency, which is £800 less than the Original purchase; And because I am perswaded that either in War, or Peace, they will be found to possess advantages at Barracks, or Storehouses, of real Importance to His Majesty's Service; Should those Propositions meet with your Excellency's Approbation, I shall be happy in directing the necessary steps to be taken with as much expedition as the nature of the time will admit of

I have the Honour to be with Great Regard Sir,
Your most obedient and most Humble Servant

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

Sir G. B. Rodney Bt. &c. &c. &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Sent by the Russel

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 22d May 1782

Sir

I must request you will pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that in consequence of the Hospital at this place not being large enough to accommodate all the Sick and Wounded Men of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels now under my Command, and it being highly necessary that they should have every Refreshment, and Relief, which this Island can afford. I have appointed Mr. William Cock Purser of His Majesty's Ship Formidable, to purchase Fresh Beef and other Refreshments for their use, to be supplied and served out to them Daily; the same having been refused to be undertaken by the Contractor for Fresh Beef here; and he is empowered by me to draw Bills on the Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy, for the amount of his Expence for the performance of that Business; Transmitting to them at the

close thereof the proper Vouchers to clear his Impress on the same; which I hope their Lordships will approve.

I am &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r
Admiralty

From Lieutenant Colonel John Tupper

Repulse at Rock Fort 23rd May 1782

Sir,

A violent disorder which I had when I arrived at Port Royal, and which is still my attendant, will I hope apologize for my not having done myself the honour to pay my Respects to you, at that time.

I was greatly astonished when Capt^a Dumaresq informed me, that you had told him you had received a Letter from the Admiralty Signifying that I and other Marine Field Officers, who were serving by their Lordships Orders in the Fleet under your Command, were to share Prize Money only with the Captains of Marines, which was agreeable to our request, made to their Lordships.

I must beg leave to acquaint you, Sir, that we have never applied to their Lordships for sharing Prize Money beneath our Rank, nor can we ever Consent to share in any other manner than as Field Officers.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

JN^O TUPPER

Lieut. Colonel of Marines

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 23rd May 1782.

Sir

I have been Honoured with your Letter of the 22d of this Month respecting the inadequate State of the Buildings Rented for the reception of Prisoners of War, and your intentions, if I have no objection on a proper Estimate being made to order the Commissary to make such Additions as to render them capable of containing 1500 Men and further proposing (as the Premises by Lease must be left in good and Tenantable Condition, and as a very considerable Sum must unavoidably be now laid out to render the Prison secure) to purchase them at once, that Government may reap the benefit of these Improvements, especially as the Premises are to be had on reasonable Terms, should the same meet my Approbation.

I cannot omit an early opportunity to inform you that from every Motive of good Policy and Humanity respecting the Island and the Prisoners of War as well as the Interest of the Crown in the future disposition of the Premises, the whole cannot but have my entire and hearty approbation.

I have &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Breg^r General Campbell

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 23d May 1782

Sir

I am this moment Honoured with your Letter of Yesterday, inclosing me the Resolution of the Magistrates

of the Town of Kingston held at the Court House of the said Town on Tuesday the 7th of this Month, as likewise the Letter of Doctor Morton Surgeon of the Prisoners of War complaining that the place allotted for the confinement of Prisoners of War in Jamaica, and near Kingston, is so very inadequate to the Numbers which the success of His Majesty's Arms has lately made Prisoners of War, that unless they are properly sheltered, and additional places of Confinement appointed for their Reception, it may occasion fatal Diseases, as the present Prison appointed for the confinement of Prisoners of War was only intended to hold from Seven to Eight Hundred.

Surely the Persons who made such a Calculation at a time when Great Britain was Involved in a War with the greatest Powers in Europe besides America, must have had a despicable opinion of the British Arms, or dispaired of Success, when even the Capture of One French Ship of War, would be more than sufficient to have filled the Prison, surely more attention ought to have been paid towards erecting proper Receptacles for Prisoners of War, considering how much depended upon it.

To have detained them on board the Ships of War might have been fatal to the Nation, and occasioned much Sickness as to have rendered the Fleet useless, every thing depending upon the Health of the Seamen employed in the Publick Service.

Could I possibly imagined that after giving timely notice that I was approaching with the Fleet, and had desired that proper places of confinement might be prepared for the reception of at least 5000 Prisoners of War, that it should have been totally neglected till my arrival in this Port; Complaints and Representations of this Gross neglect of the Commissary for Prisoners or the Admiral who ever may be to blame I have sent home, but surely my dear Sir your Island should have considered this important affair and appointed proper Reception and Places for Prisoners of War, all I can say is

that I have given directions that every Ship of War bound to Great Britain with the Convoy has my Orders to Receive on board such a Number as they can conveniently, and consistant with their own safety; I have likewise given directions that the Merchant Ships may take what Number they may think proper to assist in their Navigation and hope that the Merchants of Kingston and the different parts of the Island will recommend it to the Masters of the Ships that they contribute towards easing the Island of the great burthen of Prisoners.

In every thing that depends upon me you may be assured of my ready Concurrance, and the Commissary of Prisoners under the Naval department will have my Orders to contribute thereto, but 'tis absolutely necessary that the Magistrate of Kingstown lend an assistant hand towards erecting the Sheds round the Prison Wall, to shelter the Prisoners from the Inclemency of the Weather, and I shall give Orders to the Commissary for procuring Vessels proper for Prison Ships if they can be procured, and that they be Moor'd agreeable to your desire. I am &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

His Excellency General Campbell

From Robert Benton, Ordnance Storekeeper

Office of Ordnance, Jam^a
24th May 1782

Sir

I beg leave to lay before you a Letter I this day received from Mr. Charles an Extra Clerk appointed to this Office by Order of Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker Kt., wherein you will be pleased to observe he has signified that on account of the excessive dearness of all the common necessities of Life, he cannot subsist without an Addition to his Salary, which at present is only four shillings Sterl^s ^{per} Diem; I humbly beg leave to refer the

same to your consideration, & should be exceedingly happy to receive your Commands; at the same time beg leave to observe that should the Gentleman quit the Service for want of some addition to his Salary, I would be greatly distressed for want of his Assistance.

I have the honour to be &c.

ROBT. BENTON

Sir Geo. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 24th May 1782.

Sir

Inclosed you will Receive an Order to assemble a Court Martial, as soon as may be convenient, to try Captain Markham, (Acting by my Order in His Majesty's Sloop Zebra) for firing into the Defiance French Brig of Truce, as is put forth in Monsieur Gaston's Letter.

I must desire you will please to Order the English Prisoners that were on board the Cartel Brig to have Notice given them to appear on the Trial in behalf of the Crown.

I have &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Samuel Hood Bt: &c. &c. &c.

To Sir Gilbert Blane, Physician to the Fleet

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 24th May 1782

Sir

It having been represented to me, that great Neglect and inattention has taken place towards the Sick at the

Hospital, and that they have not been supplied with proper Refreshments.

You are therefore directed to go on Shore taking to your assistance Two of the Surgeons of the Fleet; and to make your Observations respecting the treatment of the Sick, and prescribe what Refreshments you may think best towards their Relief.

I am &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Dr. Blane
Physician of the Fleet

To Captain John Markham

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 24th May 1782.

Sir

Having Received a Letter of complaint from Monsieur De Gaston, Lieutenant of One of His most Christian Majesty's Ships of War; who was coming by the Order of the Marquis De Vaudreuil with a Number of English Prisoners in a Cartel, in order to be exchanged; that on the 21st May in the Afternoon he was attacked by you notwithstanding the Distinguishing Colours of a Flag of Truce was Flying, and that several of the People on board the said Flag of Truce both English and French were Kill'd, notwithstanding you were Hail'd by the English Prisoners, acquainting you who they were.

I have therefore Ordered Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood to enquire into your Conduct at a Court Martial, and give you this Notice that you may be prepared accordingly. I am Sir &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Markham
of His Majestys Sloop Zebra

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica
27 May 1782

Sir,

As there are Six Flags of Truce coming from the Cape I must desire you will immediately order Frigates out to meet them, to prevent the Men from getting on Shore which they have lately done by Force.

The Formidable being greatly in want of Seamen you will please to cause sixty able ones to be kept for Her, before they are disposed of. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I have this moment receiv'd yours, the French Sea Officers may stay where they are till they are put on board the Cartels after they have passed the Gulf. I signed a Commission Yesterday for Lieut. Dyer of the Hercules, please to order him to his duty on board the Princess Caroline which Ship I hope will sail as soon as possible.

*To Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners of War at
Jamaica*

Formidable, in Port Royal Harbour,
Jamaica, 27th May 1782

Sir,

It having been represented to me that several of the French Prisoners have been seen at a Considerable distance from Kingston particularly two Artillery Officers at Spanish Town and a Boat full of them this Morning at Port Royal.

I must desire to know why contrary to my Instruction

and every Rule of good Policy they are permitted to strole in so unrest [r]ained a Manner about the Island.

I cannot suppose they can have any just Cause for complaint at their Treatment, but as they give for reason, that the Cause of their rambling about is, their want of the Means of subsistence, I must acquaint you, that I have thought it necessary as well for your Justification, as in Consequence of their Complaints to order Commodore Affleck with the two Senior Captains at Rock Fort or Kingston to enquire into the Situation and Condition of the Prisoners in General at Kingston. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Thos. Neville Esq^r

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable &c. 28 May 1782

Sir,

I must desire, you will please, to order His Majesty's Ships, at Rock Fort, as they compleat their Water, to drop down to Greenwich, to compleat their Stores, and after having so done, to repair to Port Royal, and wait till further Orders. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Drake &c. &c. &c.

From Lieutenant George Tripp

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica

28 May 1782

Sir,

Lieutenant John Gardiner of His Majesty's Ship Marlborough having on the 14th day of April last, on board

His Majesty's Ship the Formidable, falsly and Scandalously aspersed my Character as an Officer, in accusing me of behaving in a Cowardly & unofficer like manner when in Action with the French Fleet on the 12th of the said Month and whereas he has fully advanced that Captⁿ Taylor Penny of the said Ship, did on that day when in Action with the Enemy call for me at Two seperate times by the appellation, of cowardly Scoundrel, and desire me to come to my Quarters and whereas the said Lieut. John Gardner has since proceeded in an Unofficer like manner in Order to procure Evidence to support his Scandalous & malicious Aspersions.

I am to request that you will be pleased to grant a Court Martial on the said Lieut. John Gardiner for his false, Scandalour and unofficer like behaviour in Maliciously aspersing of my Character and His unofficer like proceedings in the matter since. And I trust that you will be pleased with your usual goodness, to let it take place by the earliest opportunity as the Officers are now on the Spot before whom he has thus attempted to destroy my Character.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE TRIPP LT.

To S^r G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c. 29th May 1782

Sir,

Inclosed I send you an Order for Assembling a Court Martial for the Trial of the Undermentioned Captains Viz^t

William Tahourdin, of the Oronoque
 Francis Pender, of the Berbuda
 Law^{ce} Graham, of the Sylph
 John Douglas Brisbane of the Rodney
 Christmas Paul of the Stormont

for not defending the Colonies of Demarara and Esquibo, and giving up to the Enemy His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under their respective Commands, without defending them.

You will please to give directions that all the Commission Officers, Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, that were on board these Vessels and are now in the Fleet may attend in order to their Examination; and likewise for the Attendance of those Evidences the Prisoners may desire. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable &c 31st May 1782

Sir,

I am this Moment favour'd with your Letter inclosing the Sentence of the Court Martial on Captⁿ Markham and shall be very glad You will be so obliging as President to attest a Copy thereof, and send it by Captⁿ Ball to the Marquis de Vandreuil, the French Comma[n]dant at the Cape.

You will please to send for Captⁿ Longcraft and direct him to follow the orders you have given to the Zebra.

I have the honour to be with great regard, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Vice Admiral the Marquis de Vaudreuil

Formidable in Kingston Harbor, Jamaica
31st May 1782

Sir,

I have been honour'd with your Excellency's Letter of the 15th Inst. by Monsieur De Gaston a Lieutenant of your Ship who will return to your Excellency with every Account in my Power to procure of the State of the French Officers who were taken in the Affair of the 12th of April last.

'Tis with the highest Concern that I must acquaint you, Sir, that a mistake was made by the Captain of one of my Frigates called the Zebra, who attacked off Cape Tiberoon the Defiance Packet Boat, whereby three English Seamen, and two French were killed; Monsieur De Gaston having acquainted me with this unhappy Affair, I immediately Ordered the Commander of the Zebra to be Tried at a Court Martial, and have directed a Copy of the Sentence to be transmitted to your Excellency; whereby you will perceive, that Captⁿ Markham, the late Commander of the Zebra, has been dismissed from the Service of the King my Master, you may be sure, Sir, that this Affair gave me the utmost Concern, and that I was impatient till ample Justice, had been done on the Offender, and as far as the Military Laws, of our Country wou'd allow.

I entirely coincide with your Excellency, that it is our duty to mitigate, as much as possible the Rigours of War, and to soften the Misfortunes of Individuals.

The proposition of your Excellency abounds with so much Humanity, that it is impossible for me, not to entirely agree with you, relative to the Exchange of Seamen, Man for Man, by Kings Ships of War; and your Excellency may depend, that I will give the Strictest Orders that the Ships sent on that Service shall be restrained from chasing or taking any Vessel whatever.

I have given directions, to the Commissary for

Prisoners, that the Quarter Master, Treasurer, of the Regiment of Vionois, be sent back to Moss Morau, Treasurer of that Regiment.

Tis with the highest satisfaction, that I had an opportunity of sending a Frigate of War, after the Convoy for Monsieur the Baron De Paroy, your Nephew, who Commanded the Ceres, and Monsieur de Reale Ensign, who were on their Passage for Europe, and have the honour to send them to you by this Conveyance.

I have Endeavour'd all in my Power to shew every Respect to Monsieur De Gaston, and flatter myself he will have no cause to complain of His Reception.

No Man can have a higher Respect for Monsieur de Bellicombe, Governor General of the French Leeward Islands, than myself my duty to my Sovereign, will not permit me to agree to his desire, of Exchanging the Company of Grenadiers, of the Regiment of Armanach, or the Men of the Royal Artillery, that were taken on board the Ville de Paris, they are Embarked, and gone for Europe; as are four Flags of Truce with Troops for France.

If Monsieur De Bellicombe choses to Exchange his three hundred and fifty Prisoners of the Different Regiments, I am ready to Exchange as many French Soldiers, in their Room, Man for Man.

I beg Your Excellency will be Assured, that I have the honor to be with the highest consideration,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

Marquis De Vandreuil

G. B. RODNEY

Commandant in Chief at the Cape

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Sir, Barfleur, Port Royal Harbour, 1 June 1782

Having receiv'd a Letter, from Captain John Bouchier, Commander of His Majesty's Ship L'Hector; and from

Captain Alexander Hood, Commander of His Majesty's Ship, L'Aimable, informing me that they have many Sick, on board, and men falling down every day, and that neither a Surgeon, or Surgeons Mate, on board, I think it my duty, to acquaint you, therewith, the Germain, attempted to sail this morning, but cou'd not get out, the Sea Breeze having blown all night, and am,

With great respect, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

SAM^L HOOD

P. S. I beg to remind you that no Purser has yet appeared to the Caton.

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at Jamaica

Greenwich, 1 June 1782

Sir,

I must Respectfully take the Liberty of acquainting you that there are several Demands in my office for many Species of Stores of which there are not any of the kind remaining in His Majesty's Magazines here, particularly Canvas, Cordage of different sizes, Cablets from 4½ Inches to 10 Inches, Nails, Paint and Oil, and sundry Articles of small Stores: I therefore very Respectfully entreat you will be pleased to grant me an Order for my government whether I am to purchase such Stores for immediate use as are wanted and may be procured.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

L. R. ALLEN

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at Jamaica

June 2d 1782

Sir,

I have receiv'd your Letter of Yesterday, representing that you have demands, in your Office of several species of Stores, of which there are none remaning in His Majesty's Magazines, and requesting to know whether You are to purchase such as are wanted for immediate Use, and can be procured, in answer thereto, you have my permission accordingly, as far as they are necessary for the immediate Equipment of the Ships for Sea, but no further, as a very large Quantity of Stores are daily expected to arrive for the supply of His Majesty's Yard, at this Port. I am, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Mr. Allen
Naval Storekeeper
Jamaica

G. B. RODNEY

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur, Port Royal Harbour
June 3d 1782

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit you the sentence of the Court Martial upon Lieutenant Gardner; And at the same time to inform you, that having desired Doct^r Blane, and three Surgeons to attend and taste the wretched mixture issued as Wine, are unanimously of Opinion, as are the Captains also, that it is by no means fit for Men to drink; and the Captains and Surgeons, who can speak to the effects it has had upon the poor Men to whom it has been given, declare a Continuance

of the issue of it, will be injurious, rather than beneficial, and am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

SAM^L HOOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Spanish Town 4th June 1782

Sir,

By an express just arrived from the Superintendant on the Mosquito Shore, I am informed that the Spanish Armament which destroyed the Works & Buildings at Rattan, proceeded to Black River on the 30th March and in co-operation with a large Body of Militia from the back Country, drove the British Settlers from that Quarter: One Line of Battle Ship, a Frigate, three Schooners, one Sloop two half Gallies, and five large Craft composed this Squadron, which I understand was chiefly fitted out at the Havanah; and from every thing I can learn those Vessels are still upon that Coast, and mean to prosecute their intentions of extirpating the Settlers from the Shore.

Having had reason to apprehend by intelligence receiv'd from the Havanah early in March, that the Spaniards had such an object in view, I gave directions to the Settlers at Black River in case they were drove from that post, to retreat to Cape Gracias a Dios; to which place a quantity of Indian presents Medicines and Provisions were sent for their relief. I am now happy to find that those Provisions &c. reached Cape Gracias a Dios on the 7th of April, and that the Settlers of Black River by following my advice have in a great measure been preserved from the distress arising from much fatigue, Sickness and want.

In the present State of matters I think it my duty to apply to you for the aid of such Ships or Vessels, as you may deem necessary to drive the Enemy from the Coast;

without which I have reason to apprehend, that this valuable body of Men will fall a Sacrifice to the Spaniards, who seem determined to pursue the advantages already obtained in that Quarter with every possible exertion.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir,
Your Excellency's Most Faithful and most Obed^t
H^{ble} Servant

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur, Port Royal Harbour,
June 4th 1782

Sir,

Herewith you will receive some letters delivered to me, by the Masters of two Victuallers from St. Lucia, with an Account of the different species of Provisions each has on board, and am sorry to find the quantity so small, and inadequate to the wants of your fleet. I have ordered the two Victuallers in Shore.

I also send you an Account of Provisions Coming from England, brought to me by the last Pacquet, in a Letter from Mr. Stephens.

The Mersey storeship instead of Anchoring here attempted to run up to Greenwich, and gott on Shore. I have ordered an empty Ship alongside to lighten her, with Proper boats to assist, and when she is afloat, shall cause her to Anchor Close to the Yard; A Boatswain is much wanted for the Conception Hulk, and I trouble you with a letter from the Boatswain of the Ajax to the Master Attendant, desiring to be appointed to her; The Hector and Amiable are in great distress, for want of a Surgeon, having many Sick on board, and no Purser has

yet appeared to take charge of the Provisions on board the *Caton*, and am with great respect, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

SAM^L HOOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Ramilies, Port Antonio,

June 4th 1782.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that I arrived at Port Antonio yesterday the 3d of June, having visited the Coast of Cuba, from St. Jago, up to Occoa Bay twice, without seeing or hearing of any thing of force. We were very close to St. Jago, and saw quite into the harbour's mouth; there appears to be a new redoubt, not quite finished, erected upon a part of a hill, which seems to command the Moro.

I have left the Southampton, and Fox, upon the South coast of Cuba, and shall send the *Endymion*, and *Hydra*, to relieve them soon, and employ the *Childers*, and *Jamaica*, to watch the small privateers, upon the North side of this Island. The *Princess Caroline*, has not made her appearance.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

THO^S GRAVES

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park 6th June 1782.

Sir,

As it will be necessary that the *Ardent* be cleared of such Ordnance Stores which she may have on board as

may not be wanted for her as a Kings Ship, that she may be got ready to proceed to England, I must desire you will please to order a sufficient No. of Hands into her to take her off the Kings Wharf at Kingston and there to assist in depositing the said Stores.

And As I am informed that the Survey on the Glorieux which I have some Time since ordered to be taken has not been effected for Want of a Sufficiency of Hands to get the Stores and Provisions upon Deck, I must further desire you will please to order a sufficient No. of Hands on board that or any other Ship that may not yet be surveyed to get the said Stores and Provisions up in Order that such as may not be proper for the King's Service may be delivered into the Possession of the Agents to be disposed of for the Benifit of the Captors. I have the Honour to be Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners at Jamaica

Kingston, June 7th 1782.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that having held it, my duty to lay such representations, before you and the Governor, of this Island, respecting the accommodations of Prisoners of War, as their situation immediately called for, I have in consequence, in a letter from General Campbell been informed, that you had concurred with him in opinion that there is an absolute necessity for encreasing the Apartments, of the Prison, & at the same time, that you had approved of the purchase of the Bath Premisses, in order that Government might reap the benefit of all such improvements, as they were now on the eve of making, as well as of those, which had already taken place.

The Wall which I was necessitated, (under Sir Peter Parkers sanction) to build around the Prison, a rising Ground, cost with some other Additions, above £ 1,800 Sterling, and the erections, now under consideration, have been minutely examined by General Campbell, and approved of, under an Estimate of £ 4,000 Sterling. Doctor Morton the Proprietor of the Place, requires for his interest, in it, £ 3500. He receives at present, an annual rent of £ 500 Sterling.

I shall therefore, Sir, if upon the view of the matter you may think it expedient, to vest the property, at once in the Crown, be obliged to you, for such orders, as may sufficiently authorize me, on the part of Government, to conclude with the Proprietor, and go on with those buildings, so very necessary for the shelter of the Prisoners.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

THO^S NEVILLE

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

From John Tupper, Lieutenant Colonel of Marines

Repulse, Port Royal Road, 8th June 1782

Sir

Should the Repulse be ordered on a Cruize, tho' I am comfortably situated with my good friend Captain Dumaresq, I must beg that you will remove me from her into a Ship that is not likely to go any where, but where you may go yourself. Indeed, Sir, I was in hopes that on my arrival in the West Indies, you would have been pleased to have taken me on board the Formidable, that I might have been at hand to receive your Commands, and also to consult with you on many matters that may occasionally occur respecting the Marines.

I now take the liberty to send you a Copy of the Admiralty's Letter to the Commanding Officer of the

Marines at Portsmouth, by which you will be pleased to observe, that I am to serve in the Fleet under your Command; & therefore my being in a Ship liable to be sent on a Cruize will subvert entirely the intention of the said Order, and at the same time would make it most inconvenient to me.

From your application, Sir, to the Admiralty, Field Officers of Marines have been sent out to you; to you therefore, they must look up, for comfortable and proper Accommodations on board of such Ships they may be in, independent of the Caprice of any Captain of a Man of War; for I believe some would oppose every thing that would prove the least agreeable to the Field Officers of the Marines. I speak most feelingly on the occasion, from the illiberal Conduct of Captⁿ Gardner towards me, when I came in the Duke from England. Should it be my misfortune to remain in the Fleet under your Command in that Situation, I may justly say that I am in a much worse predicament than the Common Marines that I command, and if I must be under these disagreeable Circumstances, I would beg you to permit me to return to England, when any part of the Fleet goes, as in my servitude of above thirty five years, I never was treated before with any disrespect; & it is impossible that an Officer of my Rank & Age can put up with it with impunity. from these reasons, I flatter myself Sir, that you will think the Formidable the properest Ship for me to be in.

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

JN^O TUPPER
L^t Col. of Mar^s

Copy of the Admiralty's Letter to the Commanding
Officer of the Marines at Portsmouth
Admiralty Office, 11th Janu^r 1782

Sir

It being the intentions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that three Field Officers of Marines shall

proceed to the West Indies, to serve in the Squadron under the Command of Sir Geo. B. Rodney, in order to take the Command of such bodies of Marines as it may be found necessary to Land; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their directions to you to cause Lt. Col. Tupper and Major Rotheram to embark on board the Duke, or such other Ship as Admiral Pye shall appoint to receive them, in Order to proceed to the West Indies accordingly; and upon their arrival there to acquaint Sir Geo. Rodney therewith, and to follow his Orders for their further proceedings. I am Sir

Your Most Humble Serv^t

PH STEPHENS

To The Command^r Marine Officer, Portsmouth

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur, Port Royal Harbour,
June 8th 1782

Sir,

I have receiv'd your Commands expressed in the Letter you did me the honor to write me on the 6th respecting my Ordering men on board the Ardent, to carry her to the Kings Wharf at Kingston, for the Purpose of landing the Ordnance Stores, as may not be wanted for her as a Kings Ship, that she may be got ready to proceed to England;

I beg leave to Acquaint you, that the Ardent has no Main Yard, that she will require 150 Men to be lent her, to take her to Kingston, in addition to the *well* Men she already has on board, and as her going to the Wharf, will I am afraid, give an opportunity not to be prevented, for men to desert, and as the Ships of your Fleet above Port Royal have suffered by desertion, I take the liberty to suggest to your Consideration, whether it wou'd not be more adviseable to send such Ordnance Stores, as the

Agents think necessary, to the Wharf in a small Vessel or two, which I will undertake to do, without expence to the Captors, if it meets your approbation: and herewith I transmit an Account sent to me, by the Commanding Officer of the Ardent (which has but one Lieutenant Capable of duty and the Master very lame) of the Stores beyond those that will be necessary for her to keep on board.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble Servant

SAM^L HOOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park, June 8th 1782

Sir,

I am just honour'd with your Letter, of this Day, representing the Quantity of Ordnance Stores, in the Ardent, to be so small, as not to be worth sending her off the King Wharf to land them, and in Consequence agree with you, that the method you propose to send them up will be preferable. I have the honour to be, Sir

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable Port Royal Harbour
June 8th 1782.

Sir,

The Condition of some of His Majesty's Ships, along side the Wharf at Port Royal, being at present such, that

the incessant Labour, they are obliged to undergo, in pumping, to keep them from Sinking must unavoidably ruin, and destroy their Companies, unless they are in some Measure releived therefrom. Which I have no means to effect, not being able to hire Negroes, for that Purpose, and Seamen not being to be spared from other Ships, on Account of the Refitment of their Own.

Permit me, Sir, to request the favour of you, to order some of the Negroes, employed on the Fortification to be lent, in Aid of these brave Fellows, during the Exigency of their Ships may require it.

The Time they may be wanted, I hope will be but short, and therefore not much retard the Object you are so laudably pursuing, to put the Fortification of this Island from a ruinous, into a respectable Condition.

I must further beg leave, to inform you, that there are about twenty Men, and Women, belonging to the Regiment, taken Prisoners, to Windward, now on board the Ships, in the Fleet, and beg leave to know whether, You wou'd wish to have them landed here, that I may give directions, shou'd that not be the Case, for their being sent again to St. Lucia, or England, by the ensuing Opportunities.

I am with the highest respect Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier General Campbell &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

June 8th 1782

Sir,

I am honour'd with your Letter of the 4th Instant, acquainting me, with your Arrival on the 3d at Port Antonio, after having twice visited the Coast of Cuba,

without seeing any thing of Force, and with your Observations, on the State of the Fortifications, erecting at St. Jago, as also the Disposition of the Force, under your Command, the whole of which cannot but meet my Approbation.

The Sailing of the next Convoy, being fixed for the 25th Instant, from this Port, I must desire you will direct whatever Trade may be ready, to go therewith, to be convoyed round from the North Side, to Port Royal, also that you will come yourself in the Ramilies (leaving the Commanding Officer of the Frigates to pursue the Orders you are under) in Time to proceed along with it, as leave is arrived for your return to England.

I am with great Regard Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Graves &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur, Port Royal, June 9th 1782

Sir,

Having been informed, this day, by a Gentleman of the Island, from whom, I have had the honour of a Visit, that the Assembly will meet on Tuesday next; and that he beleives, if a proper and strong representation of the present state of His Majesty's Fleet, respecting the great want of Seamen, goes from you, to the Lieutenant Governor, to be by him laid before the House, the Legislature will exert itself, to provide as many, as the Island can possibly raise.

I think it my duty to mention this to you Sir, and to say, that to man the several Ships of His Majesty's Fleet under your Command after the really unserviceable men are sent home, and to enable the prizes to proceed as Convoy to the Trade, allowing only 300 Seamen for the

Ville de Paris, and 200 each for L'Hector, Ardent, Caton and Jason, 3,000 will be requisite, and I am sorry to add, that upwards of 200 are now in the Sick Lists of the Barfleur and Duke.

I have the Honour to be with great respect Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

SAM^L HOOD

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

[Greenwich Park, Jamaica, June 9, 1782]

Sir,

I am this moment favoured, with your Letter, desiring to know whether you shall communicate, to the Lords of the Admiralty, the Intelligence, transmitted by Rear Admiral Rowley: and must inform your, that my present indisposition puts it out of my power to do it, therefore must beg you, to inform their Lordships, by the Unicorn, which Ship, I desire you will please, to dispatch for that Purpose.

I am with great regard, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Barfleur, Port Royal Harbour
June 9th 1782

Sir,

I am this moment, honour'd with your Letter, by the Barfleur's Officer: and beg to acquaint you, that the Uni-

corn or an armed Schooner, will be ready to proceed to England to morrow: but am very much at a loss to know, whether you mean, I shou'd send the intelligence, transmitted by Rear Admiral Rowley, or that either Vessel, shou'd carry dispatches from you. I wish very much to act in conformity to your wishes, therefore send an officer, to receive your explicit Commands, and I must take the liberty to observe, that an Application, from you, to the Governor, with respect to men for the fleet, will carry greater weight, than any thing I can say: but I am all obedience to your Commands: The Unicorn goes ill, the Tobago very well, but she wants Men, and her Captain is with Admiral Rowley. The Alecto Fire ship also sails very well, and is perfectly ready. I wish only to know your pleasure, to comply with it, in the strictest Sense.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

SAM^L HOOD

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. If you think it expedient, to send eight or ten sail to Mr. Rowley, they will I think be ready in a few days, and I am sorry to tell you, that three Ships were aground this morning, in coming from Greenwich, and two the day before Yesterday in going from hence, to Rock fort, but all are now afloat, but neither can with propriety move till the Wind is more Moderate. The armed Schooner, I find by an Officer this moment come from her, that she cannot be ready for sea to morrow.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park, June 9th 1782

Sir,

I am this Instant, honour'd with your two Letters, the one informing me of the meeting of the Assembly, of this Island on Tuesday next, and the number of Men, want-

ing to compleat the Fleet, the other containing a Letter from Rear Admiral Rowley, respecting the sailing of the French Convoy, &c.

I am extremely sorry to inform you, that I continue so ill, that I cannot possibly attend to Business myself, but I think a Vessel shou'd be immediately got ready to sail for England, with the Intelligence, and Eight or Ten Ships of the Line, dispatched to join Rear Admiral Rowley.

I have the honour to be with great regard, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park, June 10th 1782
Sir,

I am favour'd, with your Letter of to day, and shall write to the Governor, respecting Manning the Fleet under my Command.

I must desire you will please to Order Captⁿ Parrey of the Acteon, and Captⁿ Archer of the Unicorn, to wait on me, as soon as possible. I am with great regard, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, off Greenwich, June 11th 1782
Sir,

In closed I transmit the Sentence of a Court Martial held on the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, taken at Demarara and Esequibo.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Philip Stephens Esq^r &c. &c. &c. G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park, June 11th 1782

Sir,

I am this moment favour'd with your Letter of to day. I wish you not to send the Schooner by any means, as the Packet will sail on Saturday. As for the Prize Money I think the sooner it is divided the better.

I propose going to the Governor's Penn on Thursday.

I am with great regard Sir, Yours, &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. Please to send back the enclosed.

To Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners of War at Jamaica

Greenwich Park, June 11th 1782

Sir,

My ill state of Health, not having permitted me till this morning to peruse your letter of the 7th Instant, relative to the Expence of enlarging the French Prison, and the Purchase of the Premisses, for the use of Government, desiring therein, if upon a View of the matter, I shou'd think it expedient, at once to vest the whole in the Crown, you may receive such orders as may authorize you to conclude, with the Proprietor and go on with the Buildings necessary for the shelter of the Prisoners.

I have in answer thereto, to inform you, from the strong Probability, of my Continuance, on this station, being very short, I can by no means, think myself authorizing, in ordering Bills, to be drawn on the Sick and Hurt Board, to such an Amount as the Purchase of the Premisses will come to, not having any instructions from them, so to do. Such Erections or Shelter, as is absolutely

necessary for the Protection of the Prisoners, you will please to cause to be made, on the best terms possible to Government, but things of the nature of the Purchase above mentioned, will be more proper to become the Object of the Attention of the Lieutenant Governor of the Island, and Mr. Rowley, or a Commander in Chief likely to remain fixed on this Station.

I am Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

To Thomas Neville Esq^r

G. B. RODNEY

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Spanish Town June 12th 1782

Dear Sir,

Having learnt that there is a quantity of Copper torn from the Ships' Bottoms, ordered to be sent home as unfit for Service, and that although it may not answer the Navy it might nevertheless be applied for the use of the Gun Boats: I have to request you wou'd be so good as to let me have as much of that copper as wou'd compleat the remainder of the Gun boats as it wou'd answer to preserve them effectually from the Worms. Lieut. *Walbeoff* who does me the honour to convey this letter to your Excellency will receive your orders on this head.

I have the honor to be, D^r Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

His Excellency Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Greenwich Park, June 12th 1782

Sir,

I am just favour'd with your Letter of this Day. As there is a Probability of the Packet not sailing on Satur-

day, you will please to dispatch the Schooner as you propose.

I am glad to hear the Nymph and Dolphin are sailed, and that there is a Prospect of the Fleet being soon ready for Sea. Bread & Pease become therefore every Day more wanting, and I approve of your ordering them to be purchased as I am told they are to be had.

Upon Enquiry I find the Prize Lists are not yet all sent in. I have given directions, that such as are wanting, may be collected as fast as possible.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Greenwich Park, June 12th 1782

Sir,

From the Principle of laying as few Restrictions as possible upon Trade in General, and my Earnest Wish to promote and encourage that of this Island, I have ever since my Arrival Here (and indeed wherever I have had the Honour to Command) not only not had Resource to the drisagreeable [*sic*] Mode of pressing, but have given Orders for such Men as have been impressed without my knowledge to be restored and have made my Application to the Civil Power (whenever a real Want of Men has prevailed) to be aiding and assisting in Manning the Ships, under my Command, and have always found their cheerful concurrence therein.

That Want, I am sorry to inform you, Sir, at this Time actually exists. The Fleet under my Command being from the Number Killed in Action, dead since of their Wounds, or by disease or Desertion, and what will be wanted to

Navigate the Captured Ships Home, 3,000 Men short of Complement.

Permit me, therefore, to apply through you to the Legislative Body of this Island, to be aiding and assisting, not only towards taking up the many stragling or deserted Seamen, which it is reasonable to suppose may be about this Island, but to adopt such other Methods as may appear most likely to encourage the Entry of a sufficient Number of Men, to give due Force and Energy, to the otherwise very powerful Fleet, His Majesty's has been pleased to order for the Protection of this Island and the Trade thereof.

From your Excellency's known Zeal for His Majesty's Service, I assure myself of your Early Assistance, and I have too good an opinion of the Loyalty and Affection of the other Branches of the Legislative to doubt their Concurrence therein.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Ramilies Port Antonio Jamaica

June 18, 1782

Sir,

By letters from Captain Dixon of His Majesty's Sloop Jamaica of the 7th, 8 and 9th instant from Lucea, I am informed of his having taken on the 7th a pickaroon of eight Carriage Guns, some swivels and forty two Men belonging to Trinidada, which had infested the coast about St. Anns, and taken off three Negro Slaves. Her consort was taken by the Tarter frigate.

Captain Dixon being obliged by a very high Wind to put into Lucea, had an affidavit sent him sworn before Mr. Donald Campbell, made by James Baird lately a

prisoner amongst the Spaniards at Trinidad, of a schooner of ten carriage Guns and eighty men having sailed from thence about the 29 May intended to plunder the settlers upon the Grand Cayman, and that he beleived she was then thereabout: Whereupon Captain Dixon determined to take the Childers with him and proceed in quest of her, and expected the following day the 10th and hoped to be back soon upon his Station.

As this Schooner privateer will probably infest the coast of Jamaica if she fails of success at the Caymain, I think it very probable Captain Dixon will meet with her; but lest he shou'd not I will send the Hydra who is stationed from Anotta bay to the East End, to visit the Western Coast during the absence of the two sloops, to prevent any accident happening to the trade ships assembling for the next convoy.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

THOS. GRAVES

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. The Endeavour Schooner Lieut. Perkins is just arrived; I shall comply with the orders receiv'd by her as soon as possible

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London at Sea, 20th June 1782

Sir,

I did myself the honour of writing to you the 11th Instant by His Majesty's Ship Ulysses. On the 14th I was joined by Captⁿ Rowley of His Majesty's Ship Resource, having seen the Merchant Ships (I mentioned to you in my Letter of the 7th Inst.) safe through the Passage.

I have in Pursuance of your Orders directed Captain Christian of His Majesty's Ship Fortunée to take the Resource under his Command and Cruize with her to

Windward of the Isle of Vache, so long as their Water will last (or untill further Orders) and then proceed to Port Royal Harbour Jamaica.

I send this by His Majesty's Sloop Germain, who I spoke this Morning.

Inclosed you will receive the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ship under my Command.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

JOS^A ROWLEY

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain Hugh Cloberry Christian

Sir, Fortunée off Jackemall ¹ 22d June 1782

The Letter which I had the Honour to Write to you yesterday by the Schooner L'Oiseau Rouge will have prepared you to expect the return of the Resource to Port Royal, her Fore-mast & Bowsprit agreeable to Captain Rowleys request were this day Surveyed; the enclosed report of the Carpenters will I hope be in your Opinion, deemed reason sufficient for my having given Captain Rowley Orders to proceed into Port. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

HUGH C. CHRISTAIN [*sic*]

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London at Sea 23d June 1782

Navassa S. S. W. 3 Leagues

Sir,

I did myself the Honour of writing to you by His Majesty's Sloop Germain the 20th Instant.

¹ Jacmel, on the southern coast of Haiti, east of Vache Island. Ed.

I this Morning spoke a Danish Schooner from Port au Prince the 20th Instant bound to Jamaica by whom I gained Intelligence that on the 17th Ten sail of the Line, Eight of which were French and two Spanish, Sail'd from that Port.

You will receive this by Captain Rowley of His Majesty's Ship Resource, he having Sprung his Fore mast and Bowsprit, and been ordered into Port by Captain Christian of His Majesty's Ship Fortunée.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Yours, &c. &c. &c.

JOS^A ROWLEY

To Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at Jamaica

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

23 June 1782

Sir,

I receiv'd your Letter of the 21st Instant, respecting the Purchase of the Cargo of the Prize Ship Elizabeth, and must Refer you to Rear Adm^l Rowley, who will take the Command on my leaving this Station, as I do not choose to interfere with any transaction prior to my Arrival

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Lewis Robert Allen Esq^r
Naval Storekeeper, Jamaica

To Captain Taylor Penny

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

23 June 1782

Sir,

I am favour'd with your Letter of Yesterday, and have given Directions for a Commission being made out for your Nephew as fifth Lieutenant of the Marlborough.

The Ships I may send Home, will be those whose Condition most immediately requires it, but as I do not imagine the State of the Marlborough, is such as to bring her within that Number, I can by no Means think of sending her home, however if your Health makes it necessary for your return to England, I shall certainly very readily contrive to accommodate you with an Exchange.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Penny
Marlborough

To Thomas French, Custos at Kingston

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour,
23d June 1782

Sir,

Whereas there is very great Reason to imagine that the Store Ship called the Mersey, was set on Fire designedly, by which Means the said Ship and several of His Majestys Stores were burnt, and the whole Fleet endanger'd, and it is probable some of the Crew were concerned therein, as they with two of the Mates have not since been heard of.

I must desire you will please to use every Exertion of the Civil Power towards the apprehension of the said People, as the Names and description of whom the Master of the said Ships who will attend you Herewith, will supply you.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Thos. French Esq^r &c. &c. &c.

To Major William Rotheram

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
24 June 1782

Sir,

I receiv'd your Letter of the 17th June, requesting my permission for your being absent from your duty six Months, for the Benefit of your Health, and must inform you, it is not in my power to comply with your request, as the Marines will very shortly be wanted for Service, therefore its impossible to dispence with any of the Field Officers, Absence, but will with pleasure, send home any Letter you shall choose to write their Lordships, on that head.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Major Rotherham &c. &c. &c.

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Government Penn, 24th June 1782

Sir,

When you was pleased to say, that a Ship of War shou'd be dispatched for the protection of the Musquito Shore, I was in hopes that it wou'd have encouraged some trading Vessels to go down, by which I might have forwarded one hundred Provincials, Provisions for the distressed Settlers, and the annual presents for the Indians. But as I now find that no trading vessels mean to Visit that Coast, I am under the necessity of requesting your Excellency to order a Transport for this Service: which wou'd carry every thing compleat, and at the same time, save a Considerable Expençe of Government.

The distressed and precarious situation of those settlers collected at Cape Gracios a Dios, gives me infinite an-

xiety. As they will call for relief, and it is my duty to support, I hope your Excellency will immediately name a Transport for Cape Gracios a Dios, and that you will be pleased to acquaint me, when the Frigate can proceed along with her, that I may direct the Embarkation of Provisions and Stores accordingly.

By orders receiv'd from the War Office, Four of the Regiments under my Command are instantly to be draughted, and the Officers, Non Commission Officers and Invalids are to return to Great Britain. Three of these Regiments will be draughted in sufficient time to proceed by the fleet, which is ordered to sail on the tenth of July, and there will in consequence be near 50 Officers, and about 300 Non Commissioned Officers and invalids to go home. As those Officers & men will require two or three Transports to convey them to England, I have written to *Walbeoff* that he may immediately wait on your Excell^y to receive your commands on this head, who will likewise acquaint me with your pleasure regarding the Transport for the Musquito Shore.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c.

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Princessa at Sea, 25th June 1782

Sir,

Since I wrote you by the Prince William, the Conqueror made the Signal of distress from her Mast: I sent the *Actæon* to her, to desire Captain Balfour wou'd acquaint me in writing what were the Conquerors Complaints; if they cou'd not be repaired at Sea to go into Port, and give his reasons to the Commanding Officer there, for his so doing: inclosed I send you his Answer. Monday the

Yarmouth made the Signal of distress from her Mast; I sent the Magnificent to her, who returned and informed me, her Main top-mast was sprung, and the End of her Bowsprit wrung, that he shou'd soon secure the latter, and shift his top-mast, as soon as possible; her topmast was shifted before Day light, on Tuesday morning; but soon after she again made the Signal for distress from her Mast; I sent the Arrogant to her; I ordered a Survey, and transmit you the report.

The same Morning, the Nonsuch carried her Main top-sail Yard away, and before the Arrogant returned from the Yarmouth, she made the Signal for distress. I ordered a Survey and inclose you the Report.

Scarce one misfortune repaired before another is made known; these accidents and a very strong lee current makes our progress very slow; indeed we loose Ground.

I have just now been honour'd with your very obliging favour by the Tarter: I shall use every effort; our accidents will admit of, to reach rear Admiral Rowley; but shou'd the orders you have sent him by the Tarter occasion him to leave the station, before I can join him: I suppose something will continue on the station, to direct me, what I am to do, or to be sent out for that purpose.

I do most seriously wish to have our Provisions compleated, particularly Bread and Pease of which the Ships are very short; I cannot as your Letter is a private one, quit the Service I am ordered on till I have regular orders for that purpose, which I dare say, you will continue to send me. Captain Symons of the Resolution has just now sent to inform me, that he has secured her Foremast in the best manner he can: but the Hounds of his Main-top mast have given way, and his Main top sail Yard is sprung, and he is employed making another, with these accidents we must get on slowly: Indeed with the strong lee current, and Breezes, I wish we may not get to Lee-ward.

As the report of the Yarmouth declares it will require three days to secure her Main Mast, and during which time she cannot carry Sail, she must inevitably drive to

Leeward of Port Royal. I have therefore judged it proper to order her in.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Yours, &c. &c. &c.

FRAS S. DRAKE

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I have ordered Captain Cornish to endeavour to find smooth water in Cow bay to leeward of the Yellows, and secure the Knee, but if he finds it cannot be done, and the strong lee Current drives him to leeward, then to proceed to Port Royal; but if he can secure his Mast, then to follow me, according to the Rendezvous he has received.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 26th 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships that as a Vessel was much Wanted here for Hulk and an opportunity having offered of purchasing a large Spanish Prize called the Conception (her Bottom being Terraced and capable of resisting the Worms many Years) fit for that purpose and for the Sum of One Thousand Pounds Sterling only, that she might [have] been sold some time for five Thousand Pounds Currency, I must beg leave to inform you that I have directed the Storekeeper to purchase her accordingly and draw on the Navy Board for that Sum. I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
26th June 1782

Sir,

As I propose on Sunday Night that a general Press shall take place in order to Compleat the Complements of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, which are considerably Short, I request your Excellency will please to order the Troops quartered round Kingston to assist and to Apprehend, all Seamen they meet with; Frigates &c. will be off Kingston, and their Boats on shore waiting to take them off.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I shall be much obliged to your Excellency, if you will give directions to the Officers at Rock Fort, and to the Custos of the different Parishes to cause all Seamen to the [*sic*] apprehended, as Ships of War will be at the different Parts to receive them.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour June 26th 1782

Sir,

I am honour'd with your Letter of the 24th Instant, acquainting me that in Consequence of Orders from the War Office the Officers of three Regiments ordered to be draughted here, to the Amount of fifty, and 300 non Commissioned Officers, and Invalids, will be to be sent home, by the ensuing Convoy, desiring two or three Transports, may be ordered for that Service.

In answer to which I must beg leave to inform your Excellency that there are no Transports that can be ap-

propriated for that Service, but that I shall give directions that they shall be receiv'd on board the Ships of War, lately captured from the French, where they will be victualled, as Seamen which must be accounted for, with the Pursers, by the Agents of the different Regiments.

I must further desire you will please to favour me with the List of the Officers, and Men of the different Regiments, that a proper disposition may be made of the whole, and that the Officers may know on board what Ship they are to lay in the Stock they may think necessary for the Voyage.

I wish it was in my Power, to send a Man of War immediately for the Protection of the Musquito Shore, but the blowing weather has crippled so many of the Ships, turning to Windward, and the Protection of the Trade of the Island, and bringing it round to proceed with the Convoy takes up so many of the smaller Kind, that at present it is not; as soon as it is, a Small Man of War, and a Transport, if one is to be got shall be appropriated for that Service.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier General Campbell &c. &c. &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable Port Royal Harbour,
Jamaica, 26 June 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that during my Sickness, every dispatch possible has been made, by Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, in Refitting the Fleet in General, who had receiv'd much more Damage than was first imagined, and it has been a most Arduous Task to refit them owing to the Want of Artificers and the great inconveniency of the Places,

where the Stores are deposited, which occasions very great delay, and loss of time.

When twelve Sail of the Line, were ready, I detached them, under the Command of Rear Admiral Drake, in order to join Rear Admiral Rowley, on the Coast of Hispaniola and with a view to Cutt off the Communication between Cape Francois, and Port au Prince, at which Place I had receiv'd Information, five sail of French and two Sail of Spanish Ships, of the Line, were Arrived, in order to Convoy the Trade from that Port to Cape Francois, in attempting of which, I flattered myself Mr. Rowley wou'd have been able to have Intercepted them; but since the Sailing of the Squadron under Rear Admiral Drake, the Winds have continued to Blow Unusually hard for this Climate, without the least Variation, Day or Night, with the Addition of a Strong Lee Current, and this day three of the Squadron have been obliged to return into Port, with their Masts dangerously sprung.

On the 21st Instant the Trade from England Arrived under Convoy of the Preston, by which means a sufficient Quantity of Provisions will be in store for the Supply of the Fleet. I have given directions to Compleat to four Months of all Species, and for every Captain to hold themselves in momentary Readiness to proceed to Sea, and as the extream bad weather, which has continued for near Six Weeks, has prevented the Trading Ships for taking in their Lading, I have consented to put off the Sailing of the Convoy, till the 10th of July, on which day they are to sail from this Port under the Protection of the whole Fleet who will see them thro' the Windward Passage if the Weather will permit from whence they will proceed to Great Britain under the Convoy of Rear Admiral Graves in the Ramilies, the six Captured French Ships of the Line, the Canada, Montagu, Resolution, and several other Ships which may be proper to send to Great Britain to be repaired but that must depend upon the Force and Condition in which I may find the Enemy, who from the Intelligence I have receiv'd and the Condition of their Fleet, will in my opinion be under the neces-

sity of returning to Europe from their want of Stores and Masts.

Their Lordships may depend on my keeping a Watchful Eye upon them, and that nothing but the absolute safety of Jamaica, and the Enemy having a great force at St. Domingo shall induce me to Suffer His Majesty's Fleet under my Command to run the risque of their being exposed to the Hurricane Months in those Seas.

Had the Troops expected from America which were demanded and hourly expected arrived, Jamaica would have been so much out of Danger that I could have Ventured to have left it and proceeded with the fleet under my Command and Stationed them in such a manner, out of Range of Hurricanes as might have not only awed the whole Coast of America, but likewise Intercepted the Enemy's Fleets had they attempted to have Sailed either for America or Europe, but the Vast force of Troops now at St. Domingo, with the Conjunct Fleets obliges me to be extremely attentive to their Motions, to prevent their taking post in any part of Jamaica.

Inclosed I have the honour to send for their Lordships Perusal the Condition of the Enemy's Fleet at the Cape, as taken by Captain Merrick of His Majesty's Ship Jason a very good and intelligent Officer who I had sent in a flag of Truce to the Marquis de Vandrieul with his nephew and which Intelligence may be depended on.

Inclosed I transmit for their Lordships Perusal the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships in this Harbour, as likewise a List of the Squadron I detached under the Command of Rear Admiral Drake.

I have the honor to be with great Regard, Sir, Yours
&c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Captain the Honorable Thomas Cadogan

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 27th 1782

Sir,

It being absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service, that the *Glorieux* be fitted for Sea, with all the Expedition possible, I must desire you will cause all the Exertion in your Power to be used for that purpose and that in Order thereto you will take particular Care, to keep your Officers, on board to their duty, no time must be lost. I must desire you will be on board yourself, as the *Glorieux* must Sail by the 12th of July.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captain Cadogan
of His Majestys Ship *Glorieux*

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 28th 1782

Sir,

Having had various Applications from the Planters and Merchants in different Parts of the Island for putting off the Sailing of the Convoy bound for Great Britain (which was fixed for Monday next) on Account of the bad Weather having prevented the produce being shipped.

I think it necessary to inform your Excellency, that I have for that reason gave Time to the Ships arrived in the London Convoy to get ready to avail themself thereof, consented to the sailing of the said Convoy being put

off till the 10th of July next, then for certain to sail from this Port, for Great Britain.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell

To Rear Admiral Francis S. Drake

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 28th 1782

Sir,

I must desire you will please to give directions, that the *Princessa* be compleated to three Months of all Species, with all possible dispatch, as His Majesty's Service, will require you soon to return to the Windward Station.

I am Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^l Drake &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 29th 1782

Sir,

As it is intended, that you shall take charge of the Convoy bound to Great Britain, I must desire you will please to give directions to the Captain of the *Ramilies*, on board of which your Flag is Flying, to make a Signal for all Masters of Merchantmen, and Signify to them, that the Convoy will certainly Sail, the 10th of July, and to give Instructions to all such as may put themselves under your Protection, and I must further desire you will please to give directions to your Captain, that during your stay, he sends daily on Shore to the

Yard, all your Shipwrights, Joiners, and House Carpenters, for forwarding His Majesty's and the Public Service.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Graves &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 29th 1782

Sir,

I receiv'd your Letter of the 26th of this month respecting Ships stoping at Greenwich, and the Pilots leaving them without remaining to take them either to Rock Fort, or Port Royal desiring to know in that Case what they may be entitled to for that Service.

In answer I must Inform you that unless they Pilot the Ships quite through from Rock Fort to Port Royal or from thence to Rock Fort, I do not approve of their being paid any Pilotage at all.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 29th 1782

Sir,

Inclosed you will receive four Orders to Assemble Court Martials to try the Person as therein set forth, and must

request you will please to give Orders for them to be Tried as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Rowley &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

June 29th 82

Sir,

I must desire You will please to give Orders to the Captain of His Majesty's Ship London to compleat her Water and Provisions of the said Ship to four Months, of all Species as expeditiously as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Rowley &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable in Port Royal Harbour

June 29th 1782

Sir,

You will much oblige me if you will be so good as to assist us with a Guard at the places mentioned in the inclosed Card, as they may intercept the Stragling Seamen which you know we are too much in want of.

I am with the greatest Regards, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 29th 1782

Sir,

As I have thought proper to give Rear Admiral Rowley leave to be absent from his Duty to refresh himself, after his Cruize which he represents to be absolutely necessary for his health.

I therefore desire you will please to assemble Court Martials, to try the persons named in the orders herewith transmitted.

I am with great regard, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Graves

From Captain Bartholomew Samuel Rowley

Resource, Port Royal Harbour, June 29th 1782

Sir,

John Prentice, belonging to His Majesty's Ship Resource, under my Command, having been much beaten and ill used by Lieut. Hyacinth Crofton of 69 Regt. and Lieut. Charles Dowdeswell of the Royal Artillery, Will^m Courtney, Matross of the Royal Artillery present, and was afterwards thrown into the Guardhouse by a File of Musqueteers, ordered into the Town for that purpose by the said Officers, and contrary to the remonstrances and repeated entreaties of several Officers of Distinction of the Navy then present, who are with many other witnesses ready to give Testimony to the Transactions.

I am therefore to request you will be pleased to Order the same to be represented to the Commander in Chief

of the Land Forces, that Justice may be done to the Man so abused, by a publick Enquiry into the same.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

B. S. ROWLEY

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
June 29th 1782

Sir,

It is with great Pain I trouble your Excellency, particularly with a Complaint on Lieut. Hyacinth Croften of the 69th Regiment, and Lieut. Charles Dowdeswell of the Royal Artillery, also William Courtney, a Matross for having very much beaten and ill used John Prentice belonging to His Majesty's Ship Resource, as will appear by Captain Rowley's Letter, which I herewith Inclose.

I am therefore to represent your Excellency will be pleased to order them to be Tryed at a Court Martial, as it may prevent like matter in Future, and differences between the officers of the Army, and Navy, the latter of which I shall always be ready to punish for any Insult they may be guilty off, to any Officers or Soldiers, belonging to any of the Corps under your Command.

I am with great regard, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell

From Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Ramillies Port Royal Harbour
June 30th 1782

Sir,

I had the honour of your Letter of the 29th Inst. acquainting me, that I am to assemble Courts martial, for trying several persons named in the orders, which accompany it, as Rear Admiral Rowley has your leave of absence from duty, it being necessary for the recovery of his health. I beg leave to acquaint you, that it will probably be many days before I shall be able to attend that Duty, owing to an ugly accident which befel me yesterday morning by putting my Hat on when a Centipes was in it. The little reptile irritated by confinement, bit me repeatedly on the temple and worked itself into the ear where it lodged, and continued to wound me, untill Oil poured in destroyed it, and it was extracted, a deafness and insensibility affects that side of the head, so much attended with frequent convulsive twitches, that I find myself incapable of setting at a Court martial.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

THOS. GRAVES

I have taken the liberty to return the orders under cover

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
30 June 1782

Sir,

I this morning receiv'd a Letter from Rear Admiral Graves representing to me that it will be some time before he shall be able to assemble a Court Martial as he has had the Misfortune to have been bit by a Centipes on the temple, which afterwards Worked itself into his

Ear, and continued to Wound him, 'till Oil poured in destroyed it, a deafness and unsensibility affects that side of the Head so much attended with frequent twitches, that he finds himself incapable of performing that Service

I must therefore desire you will please to Assemble Court Martials to try the persons mentioned in the Orders herewith transmitted as soon as possible, that respecting the Riot to have the preference.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Adm^l Rowley

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

June 30th 1782

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your Letter of to day. I am exceedingly sorry for your Misfortune. I met with the same accident last Year. Oil is the only Remedy.

I have sent the Orders to Rear Admiral Rowley. I hope he will be able to Assemble the Court Martials that Public Justice may not be delayed.

I am with great regard, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Adm^l Graves &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

June 30th 1782

Sir,

As there are now in this Harbour two Rear Admiral Flags Flying of the Red, I must desire you will strike yours and hoist your proper one 'till further Orders.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

To Sir Sam^l Hood Bart. &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
July 1, 1782

Sir,

As there is a Court Martial to be assembled on board the London to morrow to try some Men that have been concerned in a Riot at Port Royal, and several of the Captains who are Witnesses in favour of John Prentice have receiv'd orders to set as Members thereof which will make it impossible for them to attend at Spanish Town,

I must therefore desire you will please to defer the Trial of your Officers till an another opportunity, but as your Excellency has been so ready in doing Justice to the Man, shou'd be glad if it meets your approbation the matter might by [*sic*] dropt.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier Gen^l Campbell

From George Glenny, Contractor for Victualing Sick Seamen and Prisoners of War at Jamaica

Kingston July 1st 1782

Sir,

Owing to the very great scarcity, and exorbitant price of every article, necessary for the victualing, and nursing the sick Seamen, in His Majesty's Hospital, at Port Royal, the Contractor, must be a very great Sufferer unless some farther allowance is made.

I therefore presume to beg that you will be pleased to direct this matter to be enquired into, and that you will recommend it, to the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen, to make such Additional allowance

for the Quarter ending yesterday, as you may judge proper. the Contract price is only 1s 9d ^{per} man ^{per} diem.
Sir,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

GEO: GLENNY

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

To Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
July 2d 1782

Sir,

As the Convoy is so near Sailing and the other Convoy being to follow on the 1st of August, I must beg leave to represent to your Excellency whether it will not be adviseable in order to prevent the Enemy's receiving Intelligence, that an Embargo be laid upon all Vessels, except those who may be bound to Great Britain, and to prevent the Neutral Vessels, from giving Intelligence to the Publick Enemy.

I have the honour to be Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Brigadier General Campbell &c. &c. &c.

*To George Glenny, Contractor for Victualing Sick
Seamen and Prisoners of War at Jamaica*

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
July 2d 1782

Sir,

I receiv'd your Letter of yesterday, requesting I will make an Additional allowance, in Consideration of the exorbitant price of every Article the Contractor has been at for the Victualling and nursing the Sick and Wounded

Seamen, if not the Contractor must be a very great sufferer.

In answer must inform you that I will make a proper Report to the Sick and Hurt Office, but as Rear Admiral Rowley will remain Commander in Chief, he will give Directions relative to your Complaint.

I am, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Geo. Gleeney Esq^r &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour
July 2d 1782

Sir,

As Rear Admiral Graves has requested to have the Surgeon of the London, (who came out from England with him) discharged into the Ramilies, I desire you will please to let me know, if there is any particular one in the fleet you wou'd wish in his room.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Adm^r Rowley

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London, Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica 2d July 1782

Sir,

I was honoured with your Letter of this days date informing me of Rear Admiral Graves's wish to have the Surgeon of the London removed into the Ramilies, and desiring to know if there was any person that I wou'd wish to have appointed to the London in his room.

As I have receiv'd very strong recommendations in favour of Mr. James Shaw Surgeon of the Ulysses from Captⁿ Thomas for the very great Attention paid to him when he was so dangerously wounded, I am to request you will appoint him to the London.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

JOSHUA ROWLEY

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &ca. &ca. &ca.

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London Port Royal Harbour Jamaica

3 July 1782

Sir,

In Obedience to your Order of the 28th June 1782 I assembled a Court Martial to try the Several Persons named therein, belonging to His Majesty's Ship Anson, and Hercules, for being concerned in a very dangerous and alarming Riot at Port Royal, Jamaica on the Night of the 19th June last. When it appeared to the Members assembled, after having very maturely considered that part of the Act of Parliament, which describes the power therein given for trying Offences committed in any part of His Majesty's Dominions on Shore, that those powers are comprehended within the Terms Mutiny, Desertion and disobedience to any lawful Commands on Shore. And the Terms of the Charge not coming within the description of either of those Words, are of Opinion that the Crimes of which the several persons referred to, now stand Accused are not Cognizable before a Naval Court Martial. I have therefore Ordered the Provost Martial to return them to their Ships.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &c. &c. &c.

JOS^A ROWLEY

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &c. &c. &c.

From Captain John Lewis Gidoin

Torbay, Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica
3d July 1782

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you, that since the arrival of His Majesty's Ship under my Command in the West Indies, which was on the 25th July 1780, have at different times been supplied with Sails for a 74 Gun ship; and as the Torbay's Masts & Yards are on the establishment of a 64 only, have been under the necessity of reducing those sails (there being none of the proper dimensions in Store) and converting the spare Canvas to such repairs as it was most applicable.

I am therefore to request you will be pleased to give me an Order for so doing.

I have the honor to be &c.

JOHN LEWIS GIDOIN

Sir G. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From Brigadier General Archibald Campbell

Government Penn, 3d July 1782

Dear Sir

I have countermanded the General Court Martial, order'd for the Trial of Lieut^s Dowdeswell and Croften, till your Excellency shall appoint a Day most convenient for the Officers of the Navy to give their attendance; which I should be glad to learn as early as possible, that timely Orders may be issued for the Court Martial to meet. The above Subalterns, who had come to Spanish Town for their Trial, are again sent to their respective quarters in Arrest.

I shall call upon your Excellency at Greenwich Park, at any hour you wish on Friday morning, to have the the honor of conveying you to this Penn. As I dine with

you at Kingston on Thursday, we shall then settle the hour for Friday.

I am, my Dear Sir with sincere regard

Your Excellency's Most Obed^t & most Humble Serv^t

ARCH^D CAMPBELL

His Excellency Ad^l Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London, Port Royal Harbour

Jamaica 4th July 1782

Sir,

I must request you will favour me with a List of such of His Majesty's Ships as are to remain on this Station, and beg leave to acquaint you, that the Admiralty Instructions informs me, that the St. Albans, Preston, Fortunée, Dolphin, Alarm, Tarter, and Nymph were intended for Jamaica.

I have the honour to be Sir, Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

JOSHUA ROWLEY

To Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour

Jamaica, July 3d 1782

Sir,

Inclosed you will receive an order for your proceeding to Blue fields on the 10th with what Ships of the Convoy may be ready to go with you, to Blue fields Bay where you may either expect to see or hear from me soon.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Graves &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, Port Royal Harbor, Jam^a
July 9th 1782

Since my dispatches of the 26th of June, by the Lord Hyde Packet, you will please to acquaint their Lordships that the Squadron of Ships I had detached in order to join Rear Admiral Rowley, on the coast of St. Domingo, have been obliged to return into Port, most of their masts being sprung, owing to the very severe Weather, unusual in this Climate, and strong Lee Currents, not one Ship having been able to get so far to windward on the Coast of this Island, even as Port Morant.

Mr. Rowley is likewise returned in the London, with his Foremast so much damaged as to require a new one. Every dispatch possible has been made in refitting the Squadron; & I have the pleasure to assure their Lordships, that the whole Fleet will be in a Condition to proceed to sea in a very few days; except the Ajax & Shrewsbury, who are in so bad a Condition as to require their being hove down, before they can cross the Atlantic to proceed to Great Britain. The Shrewsbury's lower tier of Guns I have ordered to be carried to England in the Ville de Paris; & the Ajax's lower tier to be left on y^e works of Port Royal for the defence of that Town: this will be a great ease to those crazy ships in their passage to England, and enable them to perform the Voyage with more security. I have giv'n directions that they both, when put in a proper condition, proceed to Great Britain, with such of the Trade as may not be ready to take the advantage of the Convoy which I propose shall sail from Blue Fields Bay, between the 20th & 25th instant; & have already directed Rear Admiral Graves to proceed in the Ramillies to that Rendezvous, to collect the Trade & wait for further Orders.

Rear Admiral Sir Sam^l Hood with his Division, proceeds to Sea to morrow morning; Rear Admiral Rowley with his Division, soon after him; & I shall follow myself

with the Third Division, & the French Captur'd Ships of War, with all possible dispatch & according as I may find, or receive Intelligence of the Disposition & Situation of the Enemy, I shall reinforce the strength of the Convoy; or, if occasion, proceed myself with the greatest part of the fleet, for their better protection; sending with them to Great Britain the Ships whose repairs may require their return to England.

Their Lordships may easily imagine my concern, at not having received any dispatches from Great Britain, since sailing from St. Lucia; & no orders whatever relative to the great & important Fleet I have the Honor to Command; who's situation in this Climate, & so near the Hurricane months, they may be sure, gives me the utmost anxiety, but at all Events I am determined (unless I have Orders to the Contrary) that His Majesty & the Nation shall not run the risque of almost half the Fleet of Britain experiencing a Hurricane; but that I shall proceed with the greatest part to the Coast of America; leaving such a Force under y^e Command of Rear Admiral Rowley, as I may think sufficient, during the hurricane months; directing him, in case Jamaica should be in Danger, to dispatch his largest & best sailing Frigates, with intelligence to me, or the Commander in Chief for the time being in America; that speedy succours may be sent for the protection of that Important Island, & which he may be sure of receiving.

I should have been glad to have received particular directions relative to my proceedings, & how I was to have acted, at this important Crisis; but as I have received none whatever, I have to hope that the Method I have propos'd will meet with approbation, as I have no view whatever but of doing my Duty to my King & Country, according to the best of my Judgment & Abilities.

Inclosed I transmit the State & Condition of His Maj^{ty}s Fleet under my Command; & am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To P. Stephens Esq

*From George Glenny, Contractor for Victualing Prisoners
of War at Jamaica*

Kingston 9th July 1782

Sir

Necessity obliges me to trouble you very much against my inclination, and to represent that it will be impossible for me to continue victualling the Prisoners of war unless my Bills for the last quarter are approved. Since the arrival of the Squadron under your Command, I have been under the necessity of drawing on Robt: Grant of London for upwards of £20,000 St^s to pay for provisions purchased, and if I cannot remit him by this packet, I dread the consequences. I have brought with me the Contract with the sick and Hurt Board to submit to your consideration by it you will see that I have no accounts with any Publick Board, that my duty is to victuall such numbers of Prisoners as the Commissary orders me to victuall and he is responsible to them and transmits the accounts quarterly. at the same time the Board reserve to themselves a right to pay the bills or otherwise.

I have issued upwards of 362,200 Rations this quarter which amounts to about £25,000. I therefore hope you will have the goodness to approve of the bill enclosed, attested by the Commissary and If you have the least objection I will not desire you to approve of the Ballance but take my chance of getting the Board to pay it at home without. I wait your pleasure and I have the honour to be with great respect Sir

Your most ob^t and most humble St^t

GEO: GLENNY

To Sir Geo: B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &ca. &ca. &ca.

From Thomas Neville, Agent for Prisoners of War at Jamaica

[Kingston] 9 July [1782]

Sir

I have the honor to enclose for your perusal my account for these last three months of expences attending Prisoners of War under the authority of my Department, and to request you will be so good as to approve my bills on the sick and hurt board, for its amount. I am also to inform you that I have attested Bills for Mr Glenney, the Contractor for Victualling Prisoners of War for £12,000 on account. I shall have his Ballance to attest in a few days, which will be about as much more.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most ob^t and most H^{ble} S^t

THOS. NEVILL

To Sir Geo: Bridges Rodney Bt: &c. &c. &c.

From Edward Bragge

Shrewsbury, Port Royal Harbor, Jamaica

9 July 1782

Sir

I humbly beg leave to represent to you, that by a Fever & Bilious complaint, which I have laboured under for some months past, I find my health so much impaired, as to be unable to pay the necessary attendance to my Duty, as Purser of His Majesty's Ship Shrewsbury; & having no prospect of relief in this Climate;

I am therefore under the necessity of requesting the Favor, you will be pleased to grant me leave to resign my present Employ in the Shrewsbury, in Order to en-

able me to repair to England, for the Re-establishment thereof.

I am with the greatest Deference & Respect, Sir,
Your Most Obed^t &c.

EDW^D BRAGGE

Sir G. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Edward Bragge

Formidable, 10th July 1782

Sir

I have received your Letter of yesterday, acquainting me with your Incapacity to perform your Duty as Purser of His Majesty's Ship Shrewsbury on account of your ill health, requesting leave to resign the same. In answer whereto, I have to inform you, that I therefore have accepted your Resignation, & have appointed Mr. Yates Purser of her accordingly. I am, Sir

Your Most Obed^t &c.

G. B. RODNEY

Mr Bragge

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, Port Royal Harbor, Jamaica
10th July 1782

Sir

Yesterday evening Sir James Wallace arrived here, with His Majesty's Ship Warrior & the Flora frigate; & the 5th Instant, between Cape Francois & the Island of Tortuga, he fell in with the combined Fleets, consisting of Twenty two sail of the Line. By report of an Englishman, taken out of a Danish Vessel that came out of the Cape with them, it was given out, that they were bound to Rhode Island; but by their shaping their course to

leeward of Tortuga, I am convinced they were going thro' the Bahama passage to the Havannah; more especially as they have left Six sail at the Cape, who, when repaired, are to Convoy their Trade to Europe. And as Admiral Pigott is this morning arrived in His Majesty's Ship Jupiter, to whom I shall resign the Command of His Majesty's Ships in these Seas, & proposes to go thro' the Gulph of Florida, we shall soon be ascertained, on passing the Havannah, whether the Enemies Fleet are arrived there, or gone to America.

In Obedience to their Lordships' Commands, I shall return to Great Britain with all dispatch; & hope, on my arrival either at Plymouth or Portsmouth, I shall meet with their Lordships leave, signified by you, for my going to London.

I have the honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq.

To the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt Seamen

Formidable, Port Royal Harbour,
Jam^a 10 July 1782

Gentlemen,

I think it a Duty incumbent upon me, to acquaint your Board, that since my arrival & taking upon me the Command of His Majesty's Ships on this Station, I have approved the Bills drawn by your Agent Mr. Neville to the amount of many Thousand Pounds; but having yesterday received the Inclosed Letter from Mr. Neville, acquainting me that he had attested Bills for Mr. Glenny, the Contractor for supplying the Prisoners of War with provisions, to the amount of £12,000 on account, & likewise enclosing to me Bills to the Amo^t of Ten Thousand, six hundred & ten pounds, three shill^{gs} & four pence Sterling payable to himself, which sums appearing to me ex-

tremely exorbitant; I have refused approving those drawn by Mr. Neville payable to himself; but have though it necessary to approve those he attested for the Contractor, that the Prisoners of War might be supplied with Provisions; & as my time will be wholly taken up in refitting the Fleet, which will sail in a few days, I shall approve of no more Bills during my short stay here; but leave it to R. A. Rowley to appoint proper persons, to examine the Accounts, & the State of the Prisoners of War; the accounts of which appear to me extremely enormous; & in my opinion demand a strict scrutiny from the Board, or proper persons authorized from you.

I have no view, in this Letter, but the Duty I owe my King & Country, & unwilling to put my hand to approved Bills, of which I am no Judge.

I have the honor to be &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To The Commissioners of Sick & Hurt

From Lewis Robert Allen, Naval Storekeeper at Jamaica

Greenwich, Jamaica, 11 July 1782

Sir

I have the honour of your Letter of this date; respecting the want of Coals in His Majesty's Yard at Port Royal: I have for some time past made the most diligent search in the Town of Kingston, and find there is none in the place: of which I have already advised Sir Samuel Hood by Letter. And I am exceedingly concerned to be charged with gross neglect, in any point of Duty. I have the honor to be with the most perfect respect, Sir

Your Most Obedient and most H:ble Servant

L. R. ALLEN

Sir Geo: B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

To Commander John Perkins

Formidable, Port Royal Harb. Jam^a

11th July 1782

Sir

By your Gallant behaviour in taking the French Sloop with so many Officers on board her, and by your many services to His Majesty and the Publick, I have thought it incumbent on me to reward them, by making you a Master and Commander, and to put the Schooner under your Command upon the Establishment of a Sloop of War of the lowest Class, and hope you will have an opportunity of exerting yourself in the Service of your King & Country with as much applause now you are her Captain, as when you was only her Lieutenant and Commander.

I am Sir with regard

Your Most Obed^t &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Perkins

H. M. Sloop Endeavour

From Captain John Colpoys

Orpheus, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes

11 July 1782.

My Lord

The Lively Brig arrived here yesterday evening from England, just at the same time I did from Antigua; & from the nature of her Dispatches I conclude she cannot get too soon to your Lordship. I have therefore had her water compleated (of which she stood in much need) without a moment's loss of time, and directed her Captain not to touch any where between this and Jamaica: I take charge myself of the Dispatches he has for St.

Lucia, for which place I purpose sailing to morrow morning, in Order to take under Convoy the Empty Transports for New York.

I am, my Lord, Your Lordships Most Obed^t &c.

JN^O COLPOYS

To The R^t Hon. L^d Rodney

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, in Port Royal Harbour
Jamaica, 12th July 1782

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 15th of February, informing me that you are Commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to desire I will let them know the Establishment of Officers and Men put upon the Vessels named in the Margin ¹ also the Number and Nature of their Guns. In answer to which I have to inform you that the Rodney Brig was on the Establishment of a Sloop of War of 14 Guns and was stationed in the River Demarary for the protection of that Colony Esquibo and Berbice, and was one of the Vessels Captured there at the surrender of the said Colonies to the French. The Gros Islet is an armed Schooner also on the establishment of a Sloop of War 14 Guns and imployed as a Tender in the Fleet both purchased by me. The Henry is an armed Schooner of 6 Guns stationed at Demarary and Captur'd there, and purchased by Sir Samuel Hood. I have the Honor to be &ca. &ca. &ca.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

¹ Rodney brig, Gros Islet arm'd Tender, Henry Dit.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Formidable, in Port Royal Harbor,
Jam^a 12th July 1782

Sir

Be pleased to inform their Lordships, that in pursuance of the most secret Orders of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty 6th of December last to me, to purchase fast sailing Vessels, for the purpose of carrying on the Communication between this & the Windward Islands & North America when the same shall be wanting,

I have order'd the Count D'Estaing privateer, (now the Port Royal) of Fourteen Guns; & the Hercules (now the Badger) a new Coppered bottom'd Ship of Eighteen guns; & the Arrow likewise a Copper bottomed ship of Fourteen guns, to be purchas'd into His Maj^{ty}'s Service as Sloops of War; Vessels of that kind being at this Juncture absolutely necessary; they all having been first regularly surveyed, by the proper Officers, agreeable to their Instructions from His Maj^{ty}'s Navy Board; in which case, I have order'd the Naval Storekeeper to draw for their respective amounts; taking care to produce proper Vouchers on the occasion.

I have the honor &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq:

From Captain Richard Curgenvven

Ville de Paris [Port Royal Harbor, Jamaica]
13th July 1782

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have received on board the Non-Commission'd Officers of the Earl of Har-

rington's Regiment, to give them a passage to England, agreeable to your Order; they consist of Serjeants & Corporals; & as they have shewn a readiness to assist in navigating the Ship, I hope you will indulge them with being Victualled at whole allowance; & I shall esteem it a favor to have the same Indulgence for the French Prisoners I have received on board by your Orders; as they have exerted themselves in a very uncommon manner, in the Duty of the Ship.

I have the honor to be &c.

R^D CURGENVEN

To Sir Geo. B. Rodney Bart. K. B. &c. &c. &c.

To Captain Richard Curgenven

Formidable, 13th July 1782.

Sir

Whereas I propose hoisting my Flag on board the Ville de Paris, and having my own Captain & Officers on board that ship; & having appointed Captⁿ Wilkinson to be Commander of her, You are to take your choice, whether you chuse to Command the Prothee, in room of Captⁿ Wilkinson, or to Command one of the 64 Gun ships lately taken from the Enemy, & now under Orders to go to England.

You must be sensible, that you was only appointed to that Ships, purely to make you Post, until such time as I thought proper to appoint an old Officer to Command her. I am &c.

G. B. RODNEY

To Captⁿ Curgenven
of His Maj^{ty}s Ship Ville de Paris

From Major William Rotheram

Port Royal, Jam^a 17th July 1782

Sir

I am sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of representing to you, that my state of Health in this Country is so very bad, as to request you will be pleased to order the Surgeons of your Fleet to inquire into it; being very apprehensive my Life will be in great danger by a longer continuance in a hot Climate. I have the Honor Sir, to be with all imaginable respect

Your most Obed^t &c

W ROTHERAM

From Admiral Hugh Pigot

Formidable, 19th July 1782.

Dear Sir George

The Sea is so great that I am apprehensive, many of the Ships having new rigging some accident may happen; the two ships running on shore did not proceed from crowding on each other, for nothing was near them; I am rather apprehensive that there is not that pains taken to get good pilots there ought to be; indeed some of the Pilots say they do not receive what is allowed. I mention this, hoping you will enquire into it; for if the Master Attendant (I must be plain upon this subject) receives the full allowance, & gives them but a small share, I am not surprized that we want Pilots, & those we get are good for nothing.

I have enclosed two Rendezvous for such ships as you may send out that have not got them, which you will please to direct to whoever you send out. I propose being off the port to morrow morning; and if they do not get out, to go for Bluefields, in order to see if I can pick up the *Endymion*, which I doubt very much, in short I

have only the *Fortunée* and *Aimable* with me; I have ordered the Schooner to bring out the repeating Flags from the *Tartar*; & beg you will hurry the Ships to join me, as I purpose going down under an easy sail.

I wish health, and a pleasant Voyage home. I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t H:ble Servant

HUGH PIGOT

To Sir Geo. B. Rodney &c. &c. &c.

From Captain William O'Bryen Drury

Tickler, Port Royal, July 20th 1782.

My Lord

As His Majesty's Brig *Tickler* under my Command has delivered to the *Jason* the most considerable part of her Stores; and as she is Ordered to be paid off immediately; permit me to request your Lordships Permission to go to England by the opportunity of this Convoy.

I hope your Lordship will forgive this intrusion, as I am induced to make it from business of some consequence to me, requiring my getting to England as soon as possible; and as there will be left on board the *Tickler* all the Officers, untill the remainder of her Stores are delivered.

I have the honor to be &c.

WM. O B DRURY

L^d Rodney

To Admiral Hugh Pigot

Montague, Port Royal Harb^r Jan^a

20 July 1782

Dear Sir

I am favoured with your Letter by the Schooner, and had before given directions for the *Flora*, *Tartar* & *Sybil*

to join you the Instant they are able, which I hope will be to morrow morning; by which time I trust the two latter will have taken in other Anchors, in the place of those they have lost in attending the two Ships which were run on shore, and Captain Marshall who has been most dangerously ill, will be well enough to proceed to Sea. The affair you mention of the Master Attendant is of so dangerous a tendency, that you may depend on it, I shall cause a serious Enquiry to be made relative thereto. I am, Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t &c.

G B RODNEY

Hugh Pigot Esq^r

Adm^l of the Blue &c. &c. &c.

From Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

London, Port Royal Harb^r Jamaica

20 July 1782

My Lord

I do myself the honour of enclosing to your Lordship a list of Parole of Prisoners now in Kingston, which I have received from Mr. Lewis, the Commissary for Prisoners of War; & will be glad you would issue an Order to him for putting them on board the Prizes returning to England, or on board any other of His Majesty's Ships you please.

Mr. Lewis waits upon you with this to receive your Commands, & I have the honor to be &c.

JOS^A ROWLEY

To R^t Hon. L^d Rodney

*From Captain the Honorable Thomas Cadogan*¹

Glorieux, Port Royal Harbour,
Jam^a July 21st 1782

My Lord

In answer to your Lordships letter of this date, which I have just the honor to receive by the hands of Capt. Bowen, I am extremely sorry to find, that your Lordship is surprized that the Mainmast of His Majesty's Ship under my Command is not woolded; or that your Lordship should suppose that any thing has been wanting on my part to compleat the Glorieux for Sea.

I beg leave to assure your Lordship there there has not been any thing wanting on my part, to forward the Ship's Duty, since I have had the honour to Command her; & I am also confident, that every possible exertion has been used by every Officer and man under my Command to fit the Ship for sea.

I beg leave to inform your Lordship, that I have been obliged to send for all the Beef, Pease & Oatmeal, which has much retarded our watering; and that I could now get thirty tons of water out of the Torbay, if any thing could be sent for it. Our Launch went away three days ago, by your Lordship's Order, to assist the Ships in danger outside of the Harbour; & I have not heard of her since; which has much retarded getting our wood and water on board. There is not any Wood on board the Ship, but what is necessary to stow the middle Tier of Water; but there will be Fifteen Chord ready to morrow morning at Saltpond Bay, if I could procure the Glorieux's Launch, or any other convenience to bring it on board.

I am also much concerned to inform your Lordship, that the Ship is very sickly, and I believe much owing to a want of Medical Assistance. There are now forty seven men very ill on board, and unfortunately the only Sur-

¹ This letter is crossed out in the Letter-Book, without any explanatory note. Ed.

geon's Mate I have is one among the Number; and the Surgeon, who is really very assiduous in his Duty, has desired me to apply to your Lordship for assistance, finding himself incapable of doing justice to such a number; four men died yesterday, three the day before, and we have buried one since I had the honour to receive our Lordship's Letter.

I beg leave also to inform your Lordship that there is not any Powder on b^d the ship, tho' I have sent the Gunner with the Demand, desiring it may be sent on board.

As soon as I can procure rope & blocks to reeve the running rigging, it shall be reeved; & as soon as I can set the rigging up, & procure points, gaskets & robands, I will bend the sails; & I beg leave to assure your Lordship that the same efforts which have been used, shall be still exerted; & that there shall not be a moment lost on the part of myself or any person under my Command, to fit the *Glorieux* for Sea.

I therefore hope, that as I am deprived of the Launch your Lordship will be pleased to order some sloop or vessel to bring Thirty tons of Water from the Torbay; and that you will be pleased to order some assistance to the Surgeon, who has represented to me that he cannot do justice to the number of Men now sick on board, and he has not any mate to assist him.

I have the honor to be &c.

THOS. CADOGAN

To The R^t Hon. L^d Rodney &c. &c. &c.

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Montague, Port Royal Harb^r Jamaica

21st July 1782.

Sir

Inclosed I send you a List of such Ships and Frigates as are intended to remain on the Jamaica Station; and

as I shall not take upon me longer the Command of any but such as are intended to proceed with me without the Islands, I think it my Duty to acquaint you thereof; that you may give such Orders and directions to the other Ships, as you may think proper for His Majesty's Service.

I wish you every success you may desire, during your Command; & am, Sir, with real regard

Your Most Obed^t &c.

RODNEY

Rear Adm^l Rowley

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Montague, Port Roy^l Harb^r Jam^a

21st July 1782.

Sir

I have this moment received the inclosed Letter from Captⁿ Symons; & must desire you will please to give directions to your Captain, to send out some of the Frigates under your Command to his assistance; an His Majesty's Service will not allow those order'd to join Admiral Pigot, to be detained longer than to morrow morning.

I have the honor to be &c.

RODNEY

R. A. Rowley

To Admiral Hugh Pigot

Montague, P. Roy^l Harb^r Jamaica

21 July 1782

Sir

Inclosed I have the honour to send you copies of the Thanks of both Houses of Parliament, to the Admirals, Commodore, Captains, Officers & Ships' Companies belonging to the Fleet lately under my Command; as likewise the Copy of a Letter dated the 1st of June from the Secretary of the Admiralty.

As 'tis impossible for me, in the situation I am now in, personally to obey the Commands of His Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, I beg that you will be so obliging as to signify to the Admirals, Commodore, Captains, Officers and Ships Companies that were partakers of the Glorious Victory obtained on 12th April last, the great honour done to them by His Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, for their Gallant behaviour on that Memorable Day.

That Success may attend you, and the Gallant Fleet under your Command, in every Enterprize you may undertake, is the most zealous prayer of him who has the honour to be, with real truth and sincerity, Dear Sir,

Your most faithful and most Obed^t &c.

RODNEY

Adm^l Pigot

To Captain William O'Bryen Drury

Montague, Port Roy^l Harb^r Jamaica
21st July 1782.

Sir

I have received your Letter of this [*sic for yesterday's*] date, acquainting me that great part of the Stores of His Majesty's Sloop Tickler under your Command, which I have ordered to be paid off are returned, and requesting leave to return to England with this Convoy.

In answer to which you have my permission accordingly; on your first ordering your men to be discharged into the Montague; & your Officers to see the remainder of her Stores returned to the proper Officers of the Yard. I am, Sir &c.

RODNEY

To Captⁿ Drury
Tickler

To Captain the Honorable Thomas Cadogan

Montagu 22nd July 1782

Sir

I Am Ordered by the Admiral to inform you that you are to Compleat your Water from the Torbay, for which Purpose I shall send the Post Boy Manned from the Repulse; if your Powder does not come down this Morning, I will speak to the Admiral for the Ulysses or Repulse to Supply you. I have Order'd by the Admiral directions the Champion to Supply you with 40 Men this Morning for the purpose of Fitting out with more Ease, if a greater number is Necessary they shall be Order'd from Another Ship. The admiral will not admit of any Excuse for the want of Provisions or Water the latter you are to Compleat at Blue feilds Bay, if not Completed Before you Sail from hence.

For the Admiral

GEO. BOWEN

To Hon^{ble} Capt. Cadogan
Of His Maj: Ship Glorieux

To Captain the Honorable Thomas Cadogan

Montague, P. Royal Harbour, Jam^a
22 July 1782

Sir

I have to desire that you will use all the expedition possible in getting ready to proceed to sea, with His Majesty's Ship under your Command, as the whole Convoy will be detained at Blue Fields till your arrival.

I am, Sir, Your Most Obed^t &c.

RODNEY

To Captⁿ Cadogan
H. M. Ship Glorieux

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Montague, Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica
23 July 1782

Sir

I beg leave to inform you, that Captain Coffin of His Majesty's Ship Shrewsbury having been guilty of Disobedience, and Contempt towards me, in refusing to admit Officers whom I had commission'd to act as Lieutenants on board the said ship, for the appointment of whom I am only accountable to the Board of Admiralty; I have thought it absolutely necessary for His Majesty's service to put him under an arrest for the same, in order to his being tried at a Court Martial, which I request you will cause to be held on him.

The Evidence in support of the Charge are Lieutenant Incledon of the Shrewsbury & his own Clerk, the Lieutenants he refused to admit and Captⁿ Charrington.

Inclosed I transmit you the Reasons he thought proper to send me in writing, in justification of his proceedings, together with a Copy of the Memorandum sent by my own Captain to put him under Arrest, and order his Lieutenant to take the Command.

I have the honor to be, with great regard Sir
Your Most Obed^t &c.

RODNEY

R. A. Rowley

To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley

Montague, Port Royal Harbor, Jam^a
23 July 1782

Sir

The Condition of His Majesty's Ship the Torbay being such as to make it in my opinion absolutely necessary for her to go to England; I beg leave strongly to recom-

mend it to you, to dispatch her as soon as possible; and to acquaint you, that as I do not doubt but you will concur with me in the same opinion, that I shall acquaint their Lordships, that they may expect her there accordingly.

I have the honor to be &c.

RODNEY

R. A. Rowley

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Montague at Sea, 23d July 1782

Sir

Having this morning got out to Sea, together with all the French Ships (who are making the best of their way to join you) except the *Glorieux*; & finding there is a strong probability, by the present tendency of the Current, of my making my passage to windward; I have to inform you, that I am endeavouring so to do.

The *Glorieux* will be ready to sail to morrow morning; & her Captain has positive Orders to join you as expeditiously as possible, at the Rendezvous at Bluefields; which I trust will be the day following.

When he has so done, you are to make the best of your way with the Ships and Convoy under your Command for England; dispatching His Majesty's Ship *Canada*, as soon as you get into the Latitude of Bermuda, forward with such advices as you may have to send to England.

I wish you a good passage there, and remain with great regard Sir

Your Most Obedient &c

RODNEY

R. A. Graves

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Montague at Sea, 24th July 1782.

Sir

The Current has been so favourable, that since writing my Letter of yesterday, we have made a considerable progress towards weathering the Island. The Glorieux, I hope, will have joined you by the time this comes to hand by the Endymion, when you will please immediately to proceed with the Ships and Convoy under your Command for England. Should you think it necessary to take Captain Smith with you thro' the Gulph, you will afterwards be pleased to order him to proceed to join Admiral Pigot, agreeable to the rendezvous he may leave for that purpose.

I have the honor to be &c.

RODNEY

R. A. Graves

*To Rear Admiral Joshua Rowley*Montague, off Maguana 1st Aug^t 1782

Sir

Having received a Letter from Admiral Pigot, desiring that either the Nonsuch or the Anson might join him in the room of the Torbay; and having, since my being at Sea, received Intelligence that Captⁿ Shirley in the Leander, and Captⁿ Barkley in the Prudent going with a convoy of Troops from Antigua to the Island of St Lucia were attacked under Dominique by a Squadron of the Enemies Ships, which obliged two of the largest Transports filled with Troops to bear away for Jam^a.

As therefore His Majesty's Islands to windward may be in imminent danger, & particularly that very important Island of St Lucia, for the want of it's Garrison, which has been obliged to bear away to Leeward;

And as the Island of Jamaica, considering it's present force in Ships of War, & the additional Number of Troops lately arrived there, and the Fleet of the Enemy being gone to Leeward, cannot be in the least danger during the Hurricane months; I have therefore thought it absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service to order the Nonsuch & Anson to proceed, without one moment's loss of time for the protection of His Majesty's Islands to windward; and have acquainted Admiral Pigot of their danger, that he may send what additional force he may think necessary for their protection.

I sincerely wish you every Success possible, & have the honor to be Sir

Your Most Obed^t &c.

RODNEY

Rear Admiral Rowley

To Admiral Hugh Pigot

Montagu, off Bermudas, 8th August 1782

Sir

I hope the Tartar, the Sybil and the Endymion have joined you agreeable to the Orders I gave them. The latter Ship I met on my passage to Windward; Captⁿ Smith her Commander was hastening to Port Royal; but I gave him the most positive Order upon no account to put into that Port; but to hasten to Bluefields Bay, where his Stay was not to be longer than 24 hours, to compleat his water; & then to make the best of his way to join you agreeable to the Rendezvous.

'Tis with concern that I must acquaint you that the day before I left Port Royal a large Transport ship having on board part of the 19th & 30th Reg^{ts} and which sailed from Antigua 1st July, with several other Transports with Troops bound to St. Lucia, under convoy of

the *Prudent*, Rotterdam & *Magicienne*, was obliged to part company on 14th July for want of Provisions. Before they bore away, they saw an Enemy's Squadron coming round the South end of Dominique, 39 sail in all, and they imagined 3 or 4 were of the Line; they likewise saw the *Magicienne*, (to whom they made the private signal) and one of the French Ships engag'd; on which the Transport bore away for Jamaica, & on her arrival had but two days provisions on board.

How the Commanding Officer of the British Convoy could be so absurd as to attempt bringing his convoy to leeward of the Islands is beyond my conception—his duty was to have brought them to windward of the Islands, and in case he had found a Lee Current between Antigua & Guadaloupe he ought to have stood to the N^oward, where he would have been sure of a weather current, which would have enabled him to have weather'd Barbuda, & to have made a safe & certain passage to St Lucia—by absurdly taking his passage to leeward of the Islands, he has expos'd his Convoy, & endangered His Majesty's Islands; more especially as I observed on my coming out of the harbour of Port Royal another large Transport full of Troops enter it; which must greatly weaken the garrison of St Lucia, as I am convinced she had on board part of those troops destin'd for the defence of that Island.

As the arrival of those Troops at Jamaica, with the force left under Rear Admiral Rowley puts that Island out of all danger during the Hurricane months, I was determin'd for the better security of His Majesty's Islands to Windward, to hasten the *Nonsuch* and *Anson* for their protection, 'till such time as you might think proper to send R. A. Drake with such Ships as you might think necessary; but 'tis with concern I must acquaint you that by the gross neglect of the Master Attendant at Port Royal, by his sending on board ignorant Pilots the *Anson* was run on shore on the 3 fathom bank, & beat over it with the loss of her Keel, besides being otherwise greatly damaged. To have sent her back into Port

Royal would have answer'd no Publick and, as she must have laid 3 months idle, before it could possibly have been her turn to have hove down, I have therefore hasten'd the Nonsuch to St Lucia, & shall unwillingly take the Anson with me to Great Britain; where in a few days in the Dock she may be repaired and made fit for immediate Service; at present her bottom is in a very bad condition, her copper beat off, & so much damaged, that tho' they have frequently tried, they cannot sweep her bottom, without meeting with great obstructions.

By the best Intelligence I have obtained on the Coast of St Domingo, the Enemy have at the Cape but one Line of Battle Ship, and four or five frigates, who are to take under their Convoy the Trade bound to Europe, which I am informed will sail in about a fortnight.

What has become of the Preston & Alarm, which ships I had sent to reconnoitre the Cape, with the most positive Orders to return with every dispatch possible, with such Intelligence as they might have obtained, I cannot tell—neither of them joined me at Port Royal; nor did I meet with them in my passage up to Cape Nicholas; tho' the most attentive look-out was kept.

Inclosed I have the honor to send a Commission for Lt. Michael Stanhope of the Prothée to be Master & Commander of the Lively Sloop; having appointed Captⁿ Manly her late Commander a Post Captain. It is a fair Vacancy for my appointment, the Sloop being under my particular Command; but I shall not presume to appoint a Lieutenant to the Prothée, as she is one of the Fleet under your Command; I therefore hope you will be so obliging as to deliver the enclosed Commission to Captⁿ Stanhope.

I am hastening with my leaky Ships to England, & most sincerely wish you health, & success in every undertaking; & beg that you will be assured that I am with real sincerity Dear Sir

Yours &c

RODNEY

Adm^l Pigot

To the Commanding Officer at Cork or Kinsale, Ireland

Montagu Off Bantry Bay Sept. 4th 1782

Sir

Whereas the West India Convoy may be shortly expected upon this Coast from Jamaica and as it is of the Greatest importance, that Rear Admiral Graves who Commands the said Convoy, should be made acquainted with the situation of Publick Affairs, so far as relates to the Enemy's force that may be in, or near, the Mouth of the Channel; that he may be better enabled to Act for the protection and preservation of the said Convoy, by Sheltering them in the Ports of Ireland, should the Enemy be waiting to entercept them, or to proceed without Loss of time to the Downs with the Convoy, should the Channel be Open.

I am therefore, Sir, to recommend in the strongest terms that you will direct two or three Frigates to proceed without loss of time agreeable to the enclos'd rendezvous (which is not to be opened till the Frigate or Frigates get to Sea, and then kept as a Secret) and give the Commander of the Convoy such Intelligence as can be procur'd for his information. I likewise recommend it to you that the said Frigate or Frigates may remain upon the Station for at least one Month, should they not join the Convoy sooner.

This service being of the Greatest Importance, I cannot doubt but you, or any other Officer who may arrive at Cork or Kinsale, superior to you, will pay it all the Attention Possible. I am Sir

Your most Obedient and most Humble Servant,

RODNEY

To The Commanding Officer of his Maj: Ships
at Cork or Kinsale

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Montagu, in Kinsale Harbour, Sept. 8th, 1782

Sir

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that agreeable to their Commands having given the Command of the Fleet to Admiral Pigot, he sailed with it from Port Royal on the 17th of July; in order to cruize off the Havannah to watch the Motions of the Combined Fleets, till such time as the great Convoy from Jamaica under the Command of Rear Admiral Graves had passed the Gulph of Florida; and having given Rear Admiral Graves orders to proceed with the said Convoy to Great Britain, (a copy of which I have the Honour to inclose) I proceeded to Sea myself in the Montagu, with the Resolution, Flora, Alert, Endeavour, the Non-such and Anson; the last two intended to go with me, to reconnoitre Cape Francois; that I might be enabled to send Admiral Pigot and Rear Admiral Rowley Intelligence of the Enemy's Force in that Port; the Preston and Alarm that I had sent on that service, not having returned.

Off Cape Nicola Mole, I receiv'd Intelligence that the Combined Fleets were gone to the Havannah, in order (if possible) to refit the French Ships with Masts and Stores &c. which could not be procured in St. Domingo. I likewise receiv'd Intelligence, that a large Convoy under the protection of a 74 Gun Ship with Jury Masts and 3 Frigates were to sail from Cape Francois, early in August for France, and as the Day before I left Port Royal, a large Transport full of Troops arrived from Antigua, not having been able to make her passage good to St. Lucia, owing to the absurdity of the Convoy going to Leeward of the Islands; and observing as I went out of the South passage, another transport with troops going into Port Royal from the Eastward, I concluded that the Island of St. Lucia might be distressed, and therefore resolved, as Jamaica was not in the least dan-

ger, to send the Nonsuch and Anson after reconoitring the Cape to reinforce the Ships upon that Station, and wait the Arrival of Rear Admiral Drake, putting themselves under his Command. The Nonsuch is sailed on that service, but the Anson by the ignorance of her Pilot having been run on one of the Shoals coming out of Port Royal, over which she beat with considerable Damage, I thought it most for His Majesty's Service, that she should return to Great Britain; where in all probability the Damage she has received might be repaired in a few Days in Dock, which could not have been done at Jamaica or Antigua in three months; as I have experienced. The Damage the Anson has received is the loss of her false keel, and a quantity of Copper off her Bottom. She makes no water, and two Tides in Dock I beleive will perfectly repair her. I have acquainted Admiral Pigot and Rear Admiral Rowley with the Destination of those Ships; and after leaving the Resolution and Anson off the western Islands, in hopes of intercepting the French Convoy homeward bound, and giving Sir James Wallace orders to remain on that Station till the 15th of September, I proceeded with the Montagu, Flora, and Alert to make the Coast of Ireland, in order to procure Intelligence, that I might give Rear Admiral Graves notice of the situation of Affairs, for his better guidance and the safety of the Convoy; which may be expected to arrive in about a Fortnight, on this coast.

I arrived in this port last night where my Stay shall not be one moment longer than the wind will permit me to sail for England—and I propose to send the Myrmidon and Alert to meet Rear Admiral Graves, with such Intelligence as I may be able to procure at this place. Inclosed I send for their Lordships perusal a List of the Squadron left on the Jamaica Station, and have the Honor to be with real regard, Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

A List of Ships Left at Jamaica

Ships	Commanders	Guns
London	Capt. Kempthorn	90
Torbay	Gidoïn	74
Warrior	Symons	74
Repulse	West	64
Preston	Leslie	50
Ulysses	Spry	44
Actæon	Parry	44
Alarm	Cotton	32
Fox	Stoney	32
Diamond	Thomas	32
Southampton	Affleck	32
Resource	Rowley	28
Licorne	Douglas	28
Nestor	McNamara	24
Hydra	Hotchkys	20
Badger	Hall [Hills]	18
Pacahunta	Gould	16
Du Guay Trouin	Hulk	16
Arrow	Gibbes	14
Victor	Fairman [Fayerman]	14
Vaughan	Pickmore	14
Tobago	Martin	14
Du D'Estissac	Revitt	14
Martin	Sparkes	14
Porcupine	Wo[o]ldridge	14
Jamaica	Dickson [Dixon]	14
Endeavour	Perkins	12
Port Morant	Lieut. Jepson	8
Post Boy	—	8
Spanish Packet	—	8
Under orders to return to England, when refitted		
Shrewsbury	Coffin	74
Ajax	Charington	74

From Captain William Bennett

Lenox in Cork Harbour
8th Sept. 1782

My Lord

I have just now received advice of your Lordships Arrival at Kinsale. Yesterday I received two small Packetts, with a Letter from your Lordship Dated the 4th Instant off Bantry Bay, which I have this day sent back express

to Capt. Drury of the *Myrmidon*, with Particular Orders for him to proceed Immediately on the station pointed out to me by your Lordships Letter, with directions for him to order the *Alert* with one of the *Packetts* to proceed to Sea, and endeavour to fall in with the Fleet under the Command of Rear Admiral Graves, and to Cruize the time pointed out in your Lordships Letter, which Orders I suppose Captain Drury will think proper to show your Lordship, as soon as he receives them.

The *Belle Poule* and *Beaver* are here, waiting for three Regiments embarking, two of which are already so, which they were sent for from England, and will be ready to sail as the wind favours them, and they are to be Landed at Portsmouth.

I have sent a *Hooker* the only one I have, to wait on your Lordships orders During your stay at Kinsale. I have now on board the *Lenox* 160 Disposable men, which I mean to send to England in the *Transports*, if your Lordship has no occasion for them, 130 of which are Volunteers for the sea Service, and the other 30 are Marine recruits, men being much wanted in England. Am happy to find your Lordship thus far arrived in safety, and I am with the Greatest Respect My Lord

Your Lordships most Obedient and Most Humble
Servant

WM. BENNETT

To The Right Hon^{ble} Lord Rodney K. B. &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Captain William Bennett

Montagu in Kinsale Harbour Sept. 9th 1782

Sir

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 8th Instant, acquainting me of your having given Directions to Captain Drury of the *Myrmidon*, to proceed and Cruize agreeable to the Instructions contained in my Letter to you of the

14th Instant, and acquainting me with your having 160 Men for His Majesty's Service ready to send to England.

I have given orders to the Captains of the Myrmidon and Alert instantly to repair to Cork Harbour, in order to Compleat, and without loss of time, to proceed agreeable to their Rendezvous, in doing which you will please to see that no time be lost.

My Stay here will not be a moment after the wind becomes favourable to proceed to England. In regard to the Volunteers for the Sea Service and Marine Recruits, I have no other occasion for them than to carry them there, which (if you can send them round previous to my sailing) I shall do, in this Ship and the Flora, otherwise you will take the Method you propose, or any the most expeditious that may offer, as they are doubtless very much wanted.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

To Captain Bennett
of His Majesty's Ship

RODNEY

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Montagu in Kinsale Harbour

Sept. 9th 1782

Sir

By the best Intelligence I can procure at this place, the Combined Fleets of the House of Bourbon who have been parading as usual in the mouth of the Channel, have left their Station and were met on the Coast of Spain, steering for Cadiz. I have dispatched the Myrmidon and Alert to acquaint you with this Intelligence, the better to enable you how to proceed with the great Convoy under your Charge. I am Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

To Rear Admiral Graves &ca. &ca. &ca.

RODNEY

To Captain William Bennett

Montagu, Kinsale Harbour

11th Sept. 1782

Sir

Captain Drury of His Majesty's Ship *Myrmidon*, having disobey'd my Order of this days date, by not discharging William Gibson and John Corcoran, Apprentices belonging to the Brig *Lowther*, Joseph Lawrence Master, whom he had impressed, it is my particular Directions, that you will cause them to be delivered to their Master; and recommend it to Captain Drury to take particular care in future, how he disobeys an Admirals or any his superior Officer's Orders.

Should his Ship be short of Complement it will be highly necessary that you Compleat him out of the Volunteers on board the *Lenox*, as I have ordered him to sail with every dispatch possible to meet Rear Admiral Graves and the West India Convoy, taking under his Command the Alert Brig. I have not a doubt but you will take care that he complys with those orders, and hasten him out, more Especially as I have received Intelligence of a Privateer being off the Mizen head. That no delay may be made, you will please to compleat the Provisions of the *Myrmidon* and Alert out of the *Lenox* as not one moment should be lost.

I have been favor'd with your Letter, and shall be glad of any opportunity, whereby I may prove myself to be, with real sinserity, Sir

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

RODNEY

To Captain Bennett

To Captain William Bennett

Montagu, Cove of Cork
Sept 14th 1782

Sir

I am this Instant informed that there are two Brig Privateers under French Colours, which have yesterday taken a Cutter off Youghall, in Quest of whom, I wish instantly to Dispatch the Myrmidon, but am inform'd by your Lieutenant, that she is unable to proceed immediately on Account of her want of a top mast, tho' just returned from Kinsale.

I must deseire therefore you order her to be got ready, in the most expeditious manner, and to proceed to morrow morning if Possible, in Quest of the above Privateers, with one or both, the Sloops of War now in this Harbour, and in case of not falling in with them, in forty eight hours, to return and carry their former Orders into Execution. I am Sir

Your most Obedient and Most humble Servant

RODNEY

To Captain Bennett

From Captain William Bennett

Montagu, Cove of Cork 15th Sept. 1782

Sir

I herewith enclose the Collectors of Youghalls Letter, which I receiv'd late last Night.

The Lieutenant of the Duke Tender, taken by one of the Privateers, will have told your Lordship, that she was man'd with English, Irish and Scotch who being well acquainted with this Coast, lay under the land, and do a great deal of mischief, which a Couple of good going Cutters might prevent, Wexford, Waterford, and Youg-

hall, being seldom without those pirates in their Neighbourhood.

I am sorry my being ill with the Gout will prevent my paying the Respect that is due to your Lordship. I am with great respect My Lord

Your Lordships Most Obedient and most humble Servant

WM. BENNETT

To The Right Hon^{ble} Lord Rodney K. B. &ca. &ca. &ca.

To Captain William Bennett

Montagu Cove of Cork 15th Sept. 1782

Sir

I have this Instant received your Letter of this Day enclosing a Letter from the Collector of Youghall which I here return.

I am extreemly sorry that your illness prevents me the Pleasure of seeing you. I immediately on the Information received last night, gave Orders for the Myrmidon, Alert and Beaver to proceed in Quest of the Privateers, and shall lose no time in communicating the Contents of your Letter to their Lordships.

I have ordered the Volunteers, on board the Lenox, to be divided between the ships going with me to England.

I am Sir, &ca. &ca. &ca.

RODNEY

To Captain Bennett

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Montagu Cove of Cork, 15th Sept. 1782

Sir

Be pleased to inform their Lordships that since my Letter of the 8th Instant, I was not able to leave Kinsale,

on account of Contrary winds, till Yesterday morning a few Hours after which it again becoming a dead wind upon the Coast, and threatening to blow hard, (which accordingly it did) last night I put into this Harbour, from whence I shall again put to Sea the moment, the wind will allow.

After my arrival last Night, having advice that two Privateers under French Colours, but man'd with English, Scotch and Irish, were cruising off Youghall, and had taken some Vessels,

I instantly gave orders for the Myrmidon Frigate and Alert Sloops, to proceed this morning if the wind would admit in Quest of them.

This Morning Lieut. Padeson of the Duke Tender, who was Captur'd by one of them has been on board me, and furnished me with the enclosed particulars, which together with Captain Bennetts Letter to me on the subject, I enclose for their Lordships Information, and have the Honor to be Sir

You most Obedient and Most humble Servant

RODNEY

To Philip Stephens Esq^r

Intelligence receiv'd from Lieut. Padeson

We the Undersigned Certify, to have been made Prisoners of War, by the Privateer Sophia, Captain John Molston, whose ships Husband is Mr Coppins Merchant of Dunkirk, the said Privateer having a French Commission, after we were taken, we were sent on board a Fishing Boat belonging to Dungarvon, and sent on shore by Virtue of this Engagement. We have agree'd with the said Capt. John Molston, upon our Parole of Honour, not to serve the King of Great Britain, on board any sort of Vessel under any Pretence whatever untill we are regularly exchanged as Prisoners of War, according to the agreement made between the Kings of France and

England. In witness Whereof we have hereunto sign'd
our Names off Dungarvon Harbour 13th Sept. 1782.

These are to Certify that 20 Men were taken
in the Duke Tender under my Command
EDMUND PADESON Lieut.

Brig Robert, Capt. J^{no} Percival 7 People
JOHN PERCIVAL

Britains friends Good Will, Captain Ashly
Faucet, 4 People
ASHLY FAUCET

Sign'd and deliver'd by me
JOHN MOLSTON

To Rear Admiral Thomas Graves

Montague, in Cove of Cork
18th September 1782

Sir

Since my last of 9th Instant by the Myrmidon, I have
to inform you that Lord Howe is sailed with 37 sail of the
Line, for the relief of Gibraltar, and that the Dutch have
a Squadron ready to sail from the Texel.

I think it my Duty to give you this notice, that you
may be on your guard, & would recommend it to you,
to keep these Frigates with you, that they may accom-
pany the Convoy to the Downs. I am, Sir

Your most Obed. and most Humble Serv^t

RODNEY

To R. A. Graves &c. &c. &c.

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Montagu, at Anchor under the Holms,
Bristol Channell 21 Sept^r 1782

Sir

I herewith transmit you, for the inspection of their Lordships, the Original Sentences & Minutes of several Court Martials, held at Jamaica, since the last were sent home; & have the honour to be &c.

RODNEY

Philip Stephens Esq^r

To Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty

Montagu &c 21st Sept. 1782

Sir

I must desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that on 19th Inst. I sail'd from Cork harbour, in company with the Convoy of Troops bound to Portsmouth, in the night the Wind came Southerly, which prevented us weathering the Lands End, & as it blew hard, & had all the appearance of an Equinoctial Gale; & the Montagu, from her weakness, being in no Condition to continue at Sea; I bore away for Bristol Channel, & anchor'd here last Night. I have given Captains Marshall & Bowen Orders to take the first Opportunity of proceeding to Spithead, with the Ships under their respective Commands & have the honor to be &c.

RODNEY

Phil. Stephens Esq^r

